



## **David Littleproud MP**

Federal Member for Maranoa

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# **Media Statement**

## **Quilpie's first visit from the Prime Minister**

August 28, 2018

Drought support and resilience is a main focus for the Coalition Federal Government and, at the invitation of Maranoa MP David Littleproud, Scott Morrison has become the first Prime Minister to ever visit Quilpie and also met with the community in Longreach.

“When he was the Treasurer, he approved boosting drought support to \$1.8 billion and now, as the Prime Minister, Scott Morrison has seen how important this investment is to bush communities – like in Quilpie and Longreach in my electorate – up close,” Mr Littleproud said.

Mr Littleproud and Mr Morrison visited Quilpie's Stephen and Annabel Tully's 180,000 acre property to see and hear first-hand about drought effects and the resilience of local farmers.

“The Tullys are fifth generation farmers bringing up five children on Bunginderry Station, their sheep and cattle property, so they're bred tough but no one is immune from this ongoing drought, and that's why we're out here listening and helping,” he said.

“We've been in drought six or seven years so it was great to have the PM see first-hand what proactive measures – like wild dog fencing and other pest and weed management activities – does for a community going into the future.

“It's one thing to try to explain something like drought or dog fencing to someone but it's always so much better when they see it first-hand.

“Mr Morrison came to learn and didn't pretend to know it all. He listened to locals.”

Mr Littleproud represents 42% of rural Queensland – including some of the most remote communities in our state.

“It was great to have the new PM visiting Maranoa and making drought his first priority as PM,” he said.

“One of the best things Australians can do for these drought-affected communities is get off your butt and come out here – visit our towns in rural and remote Queensland and spend a few dollars to keep the local economy going. I bet you'll be met with smiling faces and a cold beer and it'll make one of the best holidays you've ever had, experiencing the Outback and friendliness of locals.

“I’m so glad the PM came to visit our part of the world for his first visit anywhere as the Prime Minister.”

### **Fact Box: Drought support**

- Since 2013, the Coalition Federal Government has invested more than \$1.8 billion in delivering support for our farmers.
- Farm Household Allowance extension and supplementary payment of \$12,000 to support for eligible farmers and their partners experiencing financial hardship (for any reason, not only drought).
- \$77 million to the Rural Financial Counselling Service to provide free financial counselling to farmers and related small businesses, suffering financial hardship. This confidential and premium case management service has no cost to clients.
- Invested \$25.8 million to help manage the effects of pest animals and weeds in drought-affected areas. This is in addition to the \$50 million commitment in the Agriculture Competitiveness White Paper to support established pest and weed controls nationally.
- Additional \$15 million for wild dog fencing and other pest and weed management activities in drought affected areas.
- A special drought round under the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund will invest \$72 million in water infrastructure in drought affected areas.
- The State Government looks after freight and fodder subsidies.

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**Media Contact:**

Annabelle Douglas

M: 0468 901 548

E: [annabelle.douglas@aph.gov.au](mailto:annabelle.douglas@aph.gov.au)

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