



## David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

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# Media Statement

October 15, 2018

### **DAVID LITTLEPROUD MP APPOINTED AS DEPUTY CHAIR FOR NEW DROUGHT FINANCE TASKFORCE**

A newly established Drought Finance Taskforce will include Federal Member for Maranoa David Littleproud MP as deputy chair to leverage resources and share insights to banks for improving drought support for farmers and small businesses.

Earlier this year, Mr Littleproud welcomed all major banks finally coming to the table and offering Farm Management Deposit offsets to their customers after years of pushing hard on the issue.

“I am looking forward to serving as deputy chair for the Drought Taskforce as I can offer my insights from hearing countless stories firsthand about the impacts of drought on farmers and small local businesses in our bush communities,” Mr Littleproud said.

“The Coalition Government continues to prioritise drought-affected regional and rural communities in Maranoa and this is demonstrated by the expansion of the \$1.8 billion Drought Assistance Package.

“We are also rolling out the \$75 million Drought Community programme extension – which covers 16 local government areas in Maranoa – to ensure money is being spent in drought-affected towns.

“The taskforce will help the government, business and industry to work together and ensure everyone is receiving up-to-date information and additional support to help farmers and small businesses get responses quickly.

“Importantly, the taskforce will consider and respond to the impact of the drought on local small businesses as well as farmers, as we know many of our small businesses depend on farming activities.”

The taskforce will include the Treasurer who will serve as chair, the Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources and Federal Member for Maranoa David Littleproud MP who will serve as deputy chair, drought special envoy Barnaby Joyce, regional Queensland Member of Parliament John McVeigh, a senior representative from the National Farmers Federation (NFF) and a senior representative from ANZ, the Commonwealth Bank, the National Australia Bank, Rabobank and Westpac.

## **FAST FACTS**

**The Drought Finance Taskforce will:**

- **leverage government, business and industry resources in Maranoa to further determine the impact that the drought has had or is having on our farmers and local small businesses;**
- **establish mechanisms to share insights in a timely manner; and**
- **advise the Government, bank CEOs and the NFF on drought impacts as well as further measures that could help alleviate the impact on our farmers and local small businesses.**

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