



David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Media Statement

November 2, 2018

Apply now for Remote Airstrip Upgrade Programme funding

FULLY functioning airstrips help stem the tyranny of distance and that's why Maranoa MP David Littleproud has encouraged communities to apply for Federal Government funding as Round Six of the Remote Airstrip Upgrade Programme is now open.

"This Coalition Government is delivering practical, sensible improvements to make our rural runways safe and more efficient and I encourage owners and operators of any remote community airstrip to make an application before Round Six closes on November 29," Mr Littleproud said.

"For many communities in Maranoa, air services provide essential services and upgrading this infrastructure will help the community be assured aviation safety obligations are up-to-scratch and air services – such as the Royal Flying Doctor Service, Australia Post, freight and other air transport services – can continue to service local needs.

"Projects for airstrip upgrades can include building animal-proof fencing, pavement repairs, levelling and upgraded lighting. These upgrades are imperative, particularly when it comes to medical evacuations at night and the hazards that livestock and native animals pose.

"During the previous round of Remote Airstrip Upgrade Programme – announced in March this year – I secured \$599,250 to upgrade five remote airstrips in Maranoa at Stonehenge, Quilpie, Isisford, Injune and Texas making a real difference to these communities' connectivity."

The Remote Airstrip Upgrade Programme is just one example of the Coalition's commitment to regional and remote communities and to improve and support bush communities and has allocated \$28.3 million – over four years in the 2018–19 Budget – to improve airstrip safety and access for remote towns.

To apply, visit www.business.gov.au/raup

Fact box:

- Round Six of the Remote Airstrip Upgrade Programme is now open until November 29, 2018.
- Funding available for improving the accessibility and safety of airstrips in remote communities.

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