



The Hon Michael McCormack MP

Deputy Prime Minister

Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development

Leader of The Nationals

Federal Member for Riverina



Cr Annie Liston

Mayor of Murweh Shire

Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie

Minister for Regional Services, Sport, Local Government and Decentralisation

Senator for Victoria

The Hon David Littleproud MP

Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources

Federal Member for Maranoa

MEDIA RELEASE

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LONG AWAITED ART CENTRE CHARMS CHARLEVILLE

A newly upgraded Art Centre and Gallery has opened in the Queensland town of Charleville, creating opportunities for new exhibitions and a big boost to local tourism.

Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources and Federal Member for Maranoa David Littleproud, who attended Saturday's opening, said the Art Centre and Gallery will showcase the work of local artists and provide a venue for travelling exhibitions and events in the region.

"We need to support our local artists and craftsmen – especially during drought when communities need other sources of income," Mr Littleproud said.

"Upgrades include the installation of air-conditioning, security cameras, portable shelving, ceiling insulation and an internal walkway to connect the Library and Gallery."

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development Michael McCormack said investing in high-quality galleries and art facilities is essential to sustaining the culture of regional communities and preserving art for future generations to enjoy.

"In addition to supporting a vibrant arts community in this region, the project also created eight jobs during construction and two ongoing roles – showing that cultural and economic development go hand in hand," Mr McCormack.

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Minister for Regional Services, Sport, Local Government and Decentralisation Bridget McKenzie said the Liberal and Nationals' Government invested \$350,000 in the centre under the Drought Communities Program.

"Drought not only impacts our primary producers, it hits our towns and regional economies just as hard. As farmers tighten their belts, so to do local small businesses as cash flow tightens," Senator McKenzie said.

"This program is all about getting money flowing into drought-affected communities, such as Charleville, to help stimulate and support their local economies.

"Helping farmers and farming communities is this Government's priority. We are standing with our farmers and regional communities during these tough times by helping stimulate jobs in the local economy, and this is what this funding is all about."

Murweh Shire Mayor Annie Liston said the Art Centre and Gallery will bring more people to town, boosting Charleville's tourism potential and increase the cultural diversity of the region.

"The new Art Centre is truly something for this town to be proud of, and I encourage locals and tourists alike to visit often," Cr Liston said.

The Charleville Art Centre and Gallery Upgrade was jointly funded with the Liberal and Nationals' Government investing \$350,000 and the Murweh Shire Council \$185,000.

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