



## David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

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# Media Statement

February 7, 2019

### **With \$1 Million of Funding, Goondiwindi Region Set For Local Economy Boost**

Maranoa MP David Littleproud secured \$1 million of funding for a diverse series of projects in the Goondiwindi Council region through the Drought Communities Programme - Federal Government funding specifically designated to support communities in the most drought-affected regions of Australia.

“The Goondiwindi Council will receive \$1 million in Federal Government funds to help stimulate the region’s economy through this ongoing drought and will deliver a number of community projects across nine areas to support local businesses, improve community infrastructure, promote the region, enhance tourism and events opportunities and improve community safety,” Mr Littleproud said.

“One of the great things about the Drought Communities Programme Extension is that funds are driven down into local groups who have a say in which local is contracted to complete the specific project. When community groups and locals make these informed decisions, outcomes are productive and sustainable well into the future.”

Projects include:

- Water supply and cartage for households using local transport carriers.
- Landcare establishing five smart farming clusters.
- An education program for preparation and storage of silage to assist management of fodder for extreme climate events.
- Community infrastructure upgrades to attract tourists and further diversify the local economy.
- Supporting the Country Music Festival and Discover Farming Festival to engage visitors with the local economy, its innovations and to increase the possibility of trade and investment.
- Construction of an exclusion fence around the Goondiwindi Airport to improve safety.
- Construction of walkways in several towns to provide safe, active corridors.
- Installation of solar panels on community clubs/halls to reduce energy costs.

“This funding also showcases the direction Goondiwindi is taking to support its existing industries while also planning for further economic diversification into the future.”

“Goondiwindi is considered an ag-tech capital and the application of technology on farms to better manage extreme climate events will engage locals about what they can do to learn more about a changing climate.”

“The funding also provides drought-affected communities with plenty of chances to support community events like the Country Music Festival and Discover Farming Festival, which is a time for locals to celebrate their region beyond drought while welcoming visitors to learn more about life in rural areas and, ultimately, agriculture.”

“Social connection is important in any town, especially during drought. This funding works three-fold: supporting events, technology development and access for locals to new and upgraded infrastructure.”

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