



David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Media Statement

April 4, 2019

Maranoa MP says improving freight connections is a budget highlight

The 2019-20 Budget is set to tackle freight expenses with a \$100-million investment – secured through the Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) initiative – to improve highways between Townsville and Roma, Maranoa MP David Littleproud announced today.

“Roma’s the largest cattle-selling centre in Australia and providing better access with northern markets will only strengthen Maranoa’s economy,” Mr Littleproud said.

“Initial work will start on strengthening, widening, sealing and realigning the Gregory, Dawson and Carnarvon Highways with \$2 million in the 2019-20 financial year.

“By making this infrastructure investment to shorten the travel times for truckies, keep more money in vendors’ wallets and give them extra choices when it comes time to sell we are building regions and growing local economies.

“This initiative will live up to its namesake and provide strategic infrastructure improvements, and one of those primary goals is to enhance our ability move cattle to market.

“Improving our supply chains means Maranoa and North Queensland are better connected to do business as we move down this road to achieve decentralisation.

“In addition to the \$100 million in ROSI upgrades, this Coalition Federal Government has secured \$100 million for the Beef Roads program and \$600 million for the Northern Australia Roads program.

“These projects support local jobs through construction and that has a positive flow-on effect for businesses in Roma, as well as Maranoa and Queensland.”

The \$100 million investment for highways between Townsville and Roma is part of \$730 million allocated to improving inland corridors.

The 2019/20 budget includes an allocation of \$1 billion for Queensland ROSI projects, improving freight corridors and linking regions as part of the process of decentralisation.

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