



MEDIA RELEASE

Drought Communities Program supports New England

07 Dec 2018

Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce, is pleased to announce four local government areas across electorate as successful in securing almost \$3 million for drought-related infrastructure projects and initiatives.

The projects form part of the Liberal National Government's \$81 million Regional Drought Communities Program, supporting towns and businesses across Australia experiencing hardship due to drought.

"This funding will assist Tamworth Regional Council to fix roads and cattle grids in the area and provide greater capacity for heavy vehicles," Mr Joyce said.

"Armidale Regional Council is also extending the life of its cattle grids with 89 to be repaired in the area, along with an upgrade a 1.47km section of Boorolong Road, north-west of town, and the installation of water filling stations.

"In Glen Innes, Council is boosting local employment in the community and engaging contractors to re-sheet 9km of its rural road network suffering load damage.

"At Inverell, Council is refurbishing 10 community facilities and will be calling on local tradespeople and local suppliers to assist. They are also hosting a series of free community events designed to promote local business throughout the region.

"All 10 local governments areas in the New England electorate are eligible for this funding which is helping to stimulate the economies of our regional towns during drought. A major road project can keep a town going with the motels booked, meals selling from the local hotel, money flowing through cash tills and local people in work."

Details of the projects are:

Tamworth Regional Council: \$1,000,000 for sealing rural roads.

Glen Innes Severn Council: \$360,000 for Re-Sheeting Rural Roads.

Armidale Regional Council: \$500,000 for Armidale Region Drought Infrastructure Program

Inverell Shire Council: \$900,000 for Upgrading Infrastructure and Energising Rural Communities, \$100,000 for the Choose Inverell Marketing Strategy

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Hon **Barnaby Joyce** MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NEW ENGLAND

Minister for Regional Services, Local Government and Decentralisation Bridget McKenzie said despite the impact of natural disasters, regional and rural Australia continues to punch above its weight in the nation's economy.

"With regional Australia accounting for around two-thirds of our exports and employing hundreds of thousands of Australians, supporting these communities now is a small price to ensure we keep the economy growing," Minister McKenzie said.

(ENDS)

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