



MEDIA RELEASE

More Stronger Community Program grants announced for New England

12 Dec 2018

Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce, has announced funding for more projects under the \$22.5 million Round Four of the Federal Government's Stronger Communities Program.

The Liberal Nationals Government is funding up to 50 per cent of costs for successful projects from a pool of \$150,000 in each electorate, including the New England.

"This program has a long, proud history of delivering grassroots infrastructure projects in communities across our New England electorate and it's easy to see why," Mr Joyce said.

"These community grants provide essential funding to breathe new life into local halls, sports clubs and organisations, all of which form the social fabric of our rural and regional towns.

"This latest funding release includes upgrades in everything from men's sheds to showgrounds, food vans, community canteens and picnic areas. Funding announced just last month included improvements to the sports ground at Kootingal, digital upgrades for the neighbourhood centre at Guyra and grants to Scone's historical society.

"While the small grants get underway, we're also delivering millions of dollars in funding for drought assistance in the New England with Tamworth, Armidale, Glen Innes and Inverell councils already awarded grants, and more to come soon.

"We have major infrastructure spending in New England including \$10 million for planning of the Tenterfield Heavy Vehicle Bypass, \$3.5 million to fully fund the duplication of Tamworth's Jewry Street Bridge where construction is well underway and \$5.3 million in Federal Government funding to upgrade saleyards in Scone and Inverell, which are equally important projects in the middle of a long drought like this."

Latest to be awarded funding under the Stronger Communities Program:

- Guyra Show Society - \$20,000 to upgrade its canteen facilities including the barbecue and bar pavilion which was listed as a top priority under the showground's 2016-26 action plan.
- Tenterfield Men's Shed: \$14,400 to install a new kitchen and bathroom with new electrical and plumbing works.
- Gwydir and Macintyre Resources Management (GYMEC) Inc Landcare - \$10,000 to purchase

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Hon **Barnaby Joyce** MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NEW ENGLAND

- and build new office and storage amenities at the new site of Inverell Community Gardens.
- Scone Neighbourhood Resource Centre - \$9,000 to purchase and fit-out a mobile food van used by volunteers to prepare a free breakfast for local school children to encourage healthy eating habits.
 - Upper Horton Sports Club - \$9,000 to install a covered picnic area, fire pit and bird watching platform overlooking the river – a well-known camping and recreation area.
 - Currabubula Red Cross Branch - \$5,500 to install outdoor blinds to the covered patio area of Currabubula Memorial Hall, home of annual art show for the last 56 years.

(ENDS)

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