



# Llew O'BRIEN

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR WIDE BAY

## Budget 2017-18 Community Newsletter



### INSIDE

**P2** Wide Bay in Pictures  
& **3** and Local News

**P4** Your Guide to the  
& **5** 2017/18 Budget

**P6** Progress Report and  
& **7** \$20 Million Jobs Package

**P8** Bruce Highway  
Update

### Dear Resident,

The Coalition Government Budget for 2017-18 is going "back to basics" and focusing on the core needs of all Australians – jobs, health care, education, and cost of living.

This Budget will deliver growth, fairness, opportunity and security for all Australians, while creating more jobs and guaranteeing the essential services that we all need and rely on.

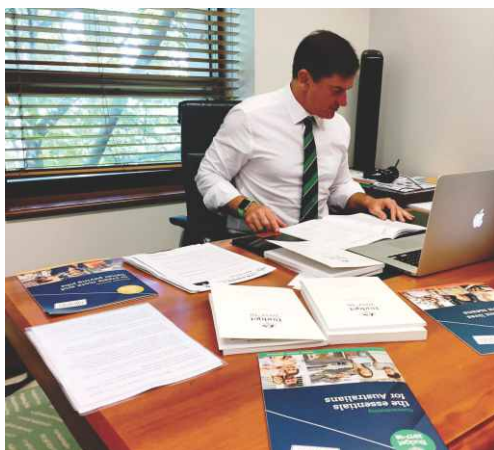
We are tackling the cost of living, from housing to energy prices and childcare costs.

The Federal Government is ensuring our health needs are looked after, with the **Medicare Guarantee Fund** that will pay for Medicare and medicines.

We are fully funding the **NDIS** so that Australians with disabilities have a secure future.

We are launching **Quality Schools**, a new, needs-based model for funding schools which ensures a fair go for all our children, and delivering affordable, accessible childcare for families.

These essential services have been secured in the Federal Government's 2017-18 Budget, along with positive reforms to ensure people are getting a fair deal from banks.



The Federal Government is making it easier for small businesses to thrive, fast-tracking water infrastructure projects and delivering an energy security plan that will tackle rising electricity prices.

We are investing in regional areas like the Wide Bay by delivering infrastructure that will drive economic growth.

We are delivering regional development programmes to build better communities, extending telecommunications with mobile blackspot funding and connecting more homes and businesses to the **NBN**.

The Coalition is also investing \$75.9 million to improve the **Bruce Highway** and local roads in Wide Bay.

For more details on how you and your family will benefit from the Federal Budget, turn to pages 4-5.

- Llew O'Brien

### Working for Wide Bay



**MARYBOROUGH:** Presenting a flag to Maryborough State High School captains Jayden Phillips and Annabel Head.



**GYMPIE:** Discussing local employment challenges with Aaron Papas and Nicole Quinn and their team from Max Employment Gympie.



**MURGON:** With Cr Ros Heit, Kristy Frahm, MP Deb Frecklington and Cr Kathy Duff after being guest speaker at a BIEDO event.



**SUNSHINE BEACH:** Delivering funding for Sunshine Beach Surf Life Saving Club, with Scott Summer.

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It was an honour for Mr O'Brien to help officiate at the opening of the Gympie Aquatic Recreation Centre.

Hundreds of people came along to see the new facility as it opened in April, which features an outdoor 50 metre pool, a 25 metre indoor pool, children's play pool, waterslides, and a café.

Gympie Mayor Mick Curran, State Member for Gympie Tony Perrett, former Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss, former Gympie Lady Mayoress Dulcie Dyne, and Mr O'Brien opened the centre which is already a prized community asset, supporting local jobs and providing new opportunities for sport and recreation in the region.

The project was jointly funded by the Coalition Government (\$5 million) and the Gympie Regional Council (\$17.2 million).

## Celebrating Gympie's new Aquatic Centre



Gympie Mayor Mick Curran, former Gympie Lady Mayoress Dulcie Dyne, former Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss, Wide Bay MP Llew O'Brien and State Gympie MP Tony Perrett at the Gympie Aquatic Centre Opening.

## Winning art shows why students #lovewidebay

Mr O'Brien said he was impressed by the quality of entries in his Wide Bay in Pictures competition, which showed the diversity of the electorate.



Thys Benadè from Noosa Christian College shows the gritty side of Wide Bay life.

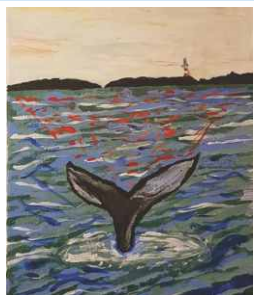
"The students took great pride in highlighting Wide Bay's many special places," he said.

Winning entries from Lan Geromet, Thys Benade, Fyannne Gibson, Lewis Hopkins, James Anderson, Kaitlin Francis, Ellouisa Smith, and Skye Hanson will be reproduced on canvas.

The artworks will be hung in Mr O'Brien's Parliament House office.



A photo by Lewis Hopkins displays values held dear by Australians, shown in a mural at Cherbourg State School.



Tinana State Primary's James Anderson painted a beautiful image of a whale off Fraser Island.



Skye Hanson from Kilkivan State School took this a-moo-sing photograph of cattle at Kilkivan.



Fyannne Gibson from Murgon High showcases the beauty of the South Burnett wine district.



Lan Geromet from Tewantin State School captured the silhouette of trees over the water at Noosa National Park.



Maryborough State High student Kaitlin Francis showed a keen eye for the heritage of Maryborough's Wharf Street.



Ellouisa Smith from Victory College, Gympie, took a stunning photo at Teewah Beach overlooking Double Island Point.

## \$600,000 to improve community safety and security in the Wide Bay

The Coalition Government is providing almost \$400,000 to the Murgon Business & Development Association to install more than 30 CCTV cameras and improve street lighting in Murgon's CBD - on top of \$200,000 for cameras at Cooroy.

Mr O'Brien said the CCTV cameras and better lighting would deter criminals, and also help people to feel safer.

The \$396,698 funding for Murgon delivered on Mr O'Brien's election commitment.

The Cooroy CCTV cameras were installed under the Safer Streets Programme, funded from the proceeds of crime.

"It's a practical way in which the Coalition Government is helping to make local streets safer for Wide Bay communities," Mr O'Brien said.



### SAFER COMMUNITY:

Member for Wide Bay Llew O'Brien has delivered on his election commitment to improve community safety at Murgon.

### COOROY ON CAMERA:

Police officer Mal Scott, Cooroy Chamber of Commerce president Danielle Taylor, Lynda Sandford and Mr O'Brien inspect the new CCTV cameras.



## Funding confirmed for Wide Bay Surf Life Saving Clubs



**FUNDS DELIVERED:**  
Member for Wide Bay  
Llew O'Brien and  
Noosa Heads club  
president Ross Fisher.

Llew O'Brien is delivering on his election commitments and supporting our surf life savers, with \$20,000 given to the Surf Life Saving Club at Peregrine Beach.

The money helped fund upgrades to the club's kitchen, male and female amenities, deck, and training and storage areas.

The Coalition Government has also

confirmed funding for new beach safety equipment for surf life saving clubs at Noosa Heads, Sunshine Beach and Rainbow Beach.

"This support recognises the great work that surf life savers do on our beaches and in the community," Mr O'Brien said.

## Getting results for Cooloola Coast

The Tin Can Bay Community & Men's Shed is off to an even better start, with confirmation of Federal Member for Wide Bay Llew O'Brien's \$68,000 election commitment, plus an extra \$8,000 from the Coalition Government for the shed's internal fit-out.

"The additional funding will be used to fit security windows on the new shed, install plumbing fixtures such as a toilet and sinks, and electrical work including internal lighting and power outlets," Mr O'Brien said.

"People in Tin Can Bay, Cooloola Cove and Rainbow Beach will benefit from the new Men's Shed that will deliver a new community facility and become a point of activity and engagement."

This funding is part of the \$5.1 million the Federal Government has provided to the Australian Men's Shed Association through to 2018-19 to support the national network of Men's Sheds.

## \$15 million to combat drought



**DROUGHT RELIEF:** Mike Barry, Member for Wide Bay Llew O'Brien, Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce and Jeff Atkinson.

An extra \$15 million in Coalition Government Drought Assistance Concessional Loans is now available for Queensland farm businesses to 30 June 2017.

The new support measures were announced by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources Barnaby Joyce, and Member for Wide Bay Llew O'Brien, in May at the Maryborough farm of Canegrowers Queensland director Jeff Atkinson.

"Drought Assistance Concessional Loans are an important tool to assist farm businesses to manage through drought conditions and recover once the season breaks," Mr O'Brien said.

"Supporting farm businesses is vital to the Wide Bay, and the Australian economy as a whole – that is why the Federal Government has delivered on its commitment to establish the Regional Investment Corporation in the 2017-18 Budget."

To find out more, please call QRAA on 1800 623 946 or [www.qraa.qld.gov.au](http://www.qraa.qld.gov.au).

For more on Australian Government assistance for farmers, visit [agriculture.gov.au/assistance](http://agriculture.gov.au/assistance).

## Local problem, Federal issue? Ask Llew...

While the bricks and mortar of my office is located in Maryborough, my mobile office is regularly on the road and available to meet with people in local communities.

If you have any concerns about a matter that is controlled by the Federal Government, such as Centrelink, Veterans Affairs, Taxation, or Immigration, please make an appointment to meet me at one of the locations listed below.

### Monday, 24 July

Pomona Community House, 10.00am

Cooroy Library, 11.30am

Tewantin Council Office, 2.00pm

### Tuesday, 25 July

Imbil RSL, 9.00am

Gympie Council Office, 11.00am

Curra Country Club, 3.00pm

### Wednesday, 26 July

Tin Can Bay RSL, 9.00am

Cooloola Cove Veterans Hall, 11.00am

Rainbow Beach Community Hall, 1.30pm

### Thursday, 27 July

Murgon Council Office, 10.00am

Goomeri SES Office, 12.00pm

Kilkivan Council Office, 1.30pm

Widgee Community Hall, 3.00pm

**For an appointment please contact:**  
**4121 2936 or 1300 301 968**  
**[www.llewobrien.com.au](http://www.llewobrien.com.au)**





# THE COALITION GOVERNMENT | BUDGET 2017



## Llew O'Brien is delivering for Wide Bay:

- \$22 million extra for schools in Wide Bay over the next four years
- \$36.28 million for the Cooroy to Curra Section C project
- \$11.2 million to upgrade the intersection of the Bruce Highway and Wide Bay Highway at Bells Bridge
- \$7.8 million to complete the Cooroy to Curra Section D planning and design study
- \$3.97 million to complete the Tinana interchange at Maryborough
- \$55,510 to improve local roads in the Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council
- \$3.3 million to build better local roads in the Fraser Coast Regional Council area
- \$1.8 million to upgrade roads in the Gympie Regional Council area
- \$1.1 million to upgrade roads in Noosa Council area
- \$2.28 million to upgrade roads in the South Burnett Regional Council area
- \$197,500 in 2017-18 to renovate historic buildings in Maryborough's Portside Cultural Precinct
- \$675,000 in 2017-18 for Stage Two of the Fraser Coast Military History Trail
- \$274,124 in 2017-18 to upgrade Gympie's Pavilion and Conference Centre
- \$530 million to upgrade the Bruce Highway to six lanes from Pine Rivers to Caloundra, benefiting motorists traveling between Wide Bay and Brisbane

## The Right Choices to Secure Services

- A Medicare Guarantee Fund to pay only for Medicare and medicines.
- Secure and fully funded NDIS for Australians living with a disability.
- We are investing in defence and policing to combat terrorism.
- Record needs-based schools investment delivering fairness and opportunity for students.

## Growth for More and Better Paying Jobs

- Skilling Australians Fund - A levy on foreign workers to fund Australians' skills training.
- Ten-year, \$50 billion infrastructure plan for railways, roads and runways.
- A Regional Growth Fund to back economic infrastructure.
- Delivering the training, skills and opportunity for hardworking Australians.

## The Right Choices for Seniors

- Medicare Guarantee Fund to secure Medicare.
- Reinstatement of the Pensioner Concession Card for 92,000 senior Australians.
- Reducing barriers for older Australians to downsize their home.
- Reducing pressure on rising energy costs.

## The Right Choices to Ease Living Costs

- More opportunities for first home buyers and downsizers.
- Secure funding for homelessness and social housing.
- Fair, affordable and accessible childcare for one million families.
- Tackling rising energy costs by securing local gas access and new storage and supply.

## Securing Better Days for Families

- Families will access more affordable and accessible child care through a simplified Child Care Subsidy.
- Downward pressure on rising housing costs by offering tax relief for first homebuyers
- Opportunity and fairness for Australian students with record schools investment focused on needs and quality.
- Supporting 68,000 young parents with ParentsNext - childcare, training and education.

## Opportunities for Small Business

- Extending the \$20,000 instant asset write-off for 12 months to boost investment.
- Help to reinvest and replace or upgrade assets.
- \$300 million for the states to remove unnecessary regulatory barriers.
- Building on \$5.8 billion of red tape reduction.

## Living within our means

- A plan to bring the budget to balance by 2020-21.
- Cracking down on multinationals not paying their fair share by closing tax loopholes.
- A fair safety net for those in need and tougher penalties for those dodging responsibility.
- Budget repair to secure the services Australians rely on.

## Backing regional and rural communities

- Work on one of the largest investments ever seen in regional Australia, the Melbourne to Brisbane Inland Rail, will commence in 2017-18.
- The Regional Growth Fund will invest \$472 million in regional infrastructure projects.
- Investing \$24 million in Rural and Regional Enterprise Scholarships to help regional students into higher education.
- Increased funding for local councils.

## A Fairer Banking Deal

- A Banking Executive Accountability Regime will punish misconduct.
- Serious sanctions for banking executives who fail standards.
- A Major Banks Levy for banks with over \$100 billion in assessed liabilities
- No levy for ordinary bank deposits up to \$250,000.



**LLEW O'BRIEN MP**  
Member for **Wide Bay**





# Llew O'Brien and the Liberal Nationals Government

## Working for the Wide Bay

PROGRESS  
REPORT

The Liberal Nationals Government is investing in a range of projects in Wide Bay to upgrade the Bruce Highway, build safer roads, support local community groups, and strengthen the economy to create jobs.

Llew O'Brien is working with the Coalition Government to deliver commitments to Wide Bay including:

### In Progress

- A \$20 million **Wide Bay Burnett Jobs Package** to create local jobs
- \$52 million for planning and design for **Section D of the Cooroy to Curra** four-lane upgrade
- \$395,000 to renovate historic buildings along Kent and Wharf streets, **Maryborough**
- \$400,000 to improve access at **Noosa National Park**
- \$237,000 to support and strengthen the Ration Shed Museum at **Cherbourg**
- Extending mobile phone coverage to **Poona** and along the Wide Bay Highway between **Woolooga and Kilkivan**
- \$68,000 to fund a Men's Shed at **Tin Can Bay**
- \$25,000 to extend **Murgon's** Men's Shed
- \$396,698 for CCTV cameras to improve community safety at **Murgon**
- \$8,649,323 in 2017-18 Roads to Recovery Funding to improve local roads in the **Fraser Coast, Gympie, Cherbourg, South Burnett and Noosa Council areas**
- \$750,000 to upgrade the intersection of Station Road and Cogan Street, **Gympie**
- \$191,000 to upgrade the intersection of Churchill and Tooley streets in **Maryborough**
- \$5 million capital grant to Cooina Aged Care Centre, **Gympie** for its new \$11.9 million 50-bed building



A \$20 million jobs package will boost employment in the Wide Bay.



Noosa Community Radio received \$5,160 for outdoor broadcasting equipment to keep the community up-to-date on local events.

### Planning Underway

- \$900,000 for Stage Two of the Fraser Coast Military Trail, **Maryborough's** Duncan Chapman Memorial
- \$2 million towards upgrading the **Cooloola-Noosa Road** to create better access and new opportunities for tourism and agriculture
- \$12,585 to purchase conservation and storage materials for the Ration Shed Museum at **Cherbourg**

### Delivered

- \$1.6 million to upgrade the Bruce Highway at **Aldershot**
- \$325,000 for an all-weather extension to the Brolga Theatre, **Maryborough**
- \$5 million for **Gympie's** Aquatic Recreation Centre
- \$548,250 to upgrade **Gympie's** Pavilion and Conference Centre
- \$22,000 for a new kitchen and bathroom at **Noosa's** Men's Shed
- \$20,000 for a new kitchen at the **Peregrine Beach** Surf Life Saving Club
- \$20,000 for new acoustic curtains at **Murgon's** PCYC
- \$200,000 to the **Cooroy** Chamber of Commerce for CCTV cameras at Cooroy
- \$11,752 towards new vehicles for Cooloola Coast Medical Transport at **Tin Can Bay**
- \$11,352 towards a new building for **Cooroy Noosa** Genealogical and Historical Research Group at Cooroy
- \$7,800 to assist with renovations at **Gympie's** Girl Guide Jacana Hut
- \$11,658 towards a new shed for the **Maryborough** Motorcyclist Club
- \$5,160 to assist with the purchase of outdoor broadcasting equipment for **Noosa** Community Radio
- \$20,000 towards the refurbishment of Tait-Duke Community Cottage at **Tewantin**
- \$13,185 to upgrade technology at **Maryborough's** Maisie Kaufmann Learning Centre
- \$20,000 to purchase playground equipment at **Murgon's** Rotary Park
- \$20,000 towards upgraded lighting at **Noosa** District Rugby Union Club
- \$7,459 towards the installation of new lighting at the **Mary Valley** Show Ground
- \$21.1 million in 2016-17 Financial Assistance Grants to help deliver better services in the **Fraser Coast, Gympie, Cherbourg, South Burnett and Noosa Council areas**



Murgon PCYC installed new acoustic curtains thanks to a \$20,000 grant.

PROGRESS  
REPORT

## Llew O'Brien is working for...

### Schools

Wide Bay's 74 primary and secondary schools, and their 23,652 students, will receive \$318 million extra over the next 10 years through the Coalition Government's new needs-based funding model. Importantly, increased funding will be tied to reforms that evidence shows make a real difference to supporting our teachers and schools to improve student outcomes.

### Power Prices

More than 35,000 people in the Wide Bay will get a helping hand with their power bills. A one-off Energy Assistance Payment of \$75 for single recipients and \$125 per couple will be available for those eligible for payments including the Age Pension, Disability Support Pension, Parenting Payment Single, and a range of veterans payments.

### Communities

In the 2017 Budget the Australian Government committed funding of up to \$150,000 to Wide Bay, as part of the Stronger Communities Programme. Applications for round three will open mid-2017. Mr O'Brien encourages community and sporting groups in Wide Bay to apply for funding.

### Mental Health

A \$170 million package will aid mental health services. People living in rural and regional areas will now have significantly improved access to psychologists under a new \$9.1 million telehealth initiative set to roll out later this year, as well as funding for suicide prevention, mental health research and support for veterans.

### Veterans

The 1,907 veterans and their families living in Wide Bay will have easier access to free mental health support services, and improved access to counselling from the Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service. All 3,365 DVA clients in Wide Bay will also benefit from the investment in this year's Budget to modernise the Department's computer and IT systems providing easier access to DVA services, improving claim processing times.

### The NDIS

An estimated 3,855 people in Wide Bay will benefit from this year's Budget, which secures funding for the National Disability and Insurance Scheme, extending the NDIS to parts of Wide Bay in 2018.

## More jobs for Wide Bay with \$20 million investment fund

Llew O'Brien and the Liberal Nationals Government are delivering on Llew's election commitment: a \$20 million specific, dedicated and targeted investment fund to boost Wide Bay jobs.

The Wide Bay Burnett Jobs Package (WBBJP) programme is led by a planning committee of local community leaders, who volunteered their skills to develop an investment plan that identifies priorities in their local areas.

Bundaberg Region Deputy Mayor Bill Trevor was appointed chair along with members: Nancy Bates, Stephen Cooper, Kathy Duff, Eric Law, Kerren Smith, Don Waugh, Leone Aslett and Glen Winney.

The WBBJP will enable eligible local businesses to expand, diversify, create jobs, grow skills, pursue export opportunities and invest in infrastructure and training.

Funding will be available across three streams: Local Infrastructure, Business Innovation and Skills and Training, with applications open on 31 May.

The jobs package comes on top of a comprehensive range of initiatives to help people into work including:

**Restart** - Up to \$10,000 for businesses to employ mature age job seekers

**Relocation Assistance** - Up to \$9,000 to relocate to take up an ongoing job

**Wage Subsidies** - Up to \$10,000 for businesses to employ long-term welfare recipients, parents, young or indigenous job seekers

**jobactive** - \$7.0 billion to help job seekers move from welfare into work

**Work for the Dole** - Providing skills and experience for job seekers.

**Transition to Work** - to help disengaged young people to become job-ready

**Youth Jobs PaTH** - getting young people Prepared for Trial and Hire

**New Enterprise Incentive Scheme** - a further \$92 million to help job seekers who wish to start their own business

**ParentsNext** - \$263 million to help parents of young children to prepare for work.

**For more information visit**  
**[www.employment.gov.au](http://www.employment.gov.au)**

## Llew welcomes aged care reform

Older residents of Wide Bay will benefit from \$13.1 million in recurrent funding to create 200 new residential aged care places in Maryborough, Tin Can Bay, and Gympie.

Federal Member for Wide Bay Llew O'Brien said the funding would be used to create 50 new aged places for Regis Aged Care in Tin Can Bay and 144 places for a proposed centre at Tinana by Infin8 Care. Gympie's Cooinda Aged Care Centre will receive six new places plus a \$5 million capital grant for a new 50-bed building.

Mr O'Brien and the Coalition Government are working to achieve better aged care outcomes under the Increasing Choice in Home Care initiative, giving elderly people the freedom to choose and change their home care provider.

Mr O'Brien has also welcomed an extra \$800,925 in funding to home care services under the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP).

"Older Australians built our nation. They defended our country. They taught us, nursed us, and cared for us; so it is right that the Coalition Government delivers the funding and policy framework to ensure their needs are met," Mr O'Brien said in Parliament.



**QUALITY CARE:** Llew O'Brien (centre) was delighted to officially open the new 50-bed Hibiscus Wing at Cooinda Aged Care Centre in Gympie in May, with Chair Paul Medway (left) and CEO Robyn Kross (right).



## Tinana Interchange

The new two-span overpass at the Tinana interchange is nearing completion, making the major entryway to the Fraser Coast safer for all road users.

This project to improve a known blackspot is part of a 10-year \$8.5 billion joint Federal/State commitment to improve the Bruce Highway's safety, flood immunity and capacity.

The Australian Government is providing up to \$30.4 million towards the project, with the Queensland Government providing \$7.6 million.



Girder laying at the Tinana interchange.

## Section A

The \$490 million Cooroy to Curra Section A upgrade was completed in May, easing congestion for up to 16,000 motorists and transforming what was previously one of the most deadly sections of the national highway.

The project involved two new northbound lanes and reconstructing the southbound lanes between the Cooroy southern interchange and Cudgerie Drive, as well as a new four-lane divided highway between Cooroy southern interchange and Sankeys Road at Federal with construction of new bridges over Six Mile Creek.



Former Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss and Member for Wide Bay Llew O'Brien at Section A of the Cooroy to Curra project.

## Available free from my office

Copies of Llew's free rainfall calendar with community contacts, '100 ways to praise a child' and times tables posters, growth charts, and age pension guides are available from his office.

For your copy, please call 1300 301 968



## Section C

Section C of the Cooroy to Curra project is well underway and will deliver 10.5 kilometres of new, four-lane divided highway on a new alignment between the Traveston Interchange and Woondum.

Section C will link with sections A and B to create a duplicated Bruce Highway from Brisbane to just south of Gympie, and was funded by \$307.4 million from the Australian Government, and \$76.8 million from the State Government.

The project will support 426 direct jobs throughout the work, and construction is expected to be completed by mid-2018.

## Tiaro

Safety works costing \$18.36 million are underway on the Bruce Highway north of Tiaro, including new overtaking lanes and widened medians to help reduce the high accident rate along this stretch of highway.

Intersections to be upgraded as part of these works include Tahlia Lane, Canterwood Road, Petersen Road, and Hoffman Road.



New safety works near Tiaro will save lives on the highway.

## Wide Bay Highway

The Federal Government has committed \$11.2 million in the 2017-18 Budget to upgrade the intersection of the Bruce and Wide Bay highways at Bells Bridge.

The upgrade will reduce delays for traffic turning right, and improve safety at the intersection by separating traffic movements and allowing continuity of flow for southbound Bruce Highway traffic.

About 12,100 vehicles use the intersection every day, including more than 2000 heavy vehicles.

## Call for Safer Roads



**SAFETY FIRST:** Member for Wide Bay Llew O'Brien is calling for an urgent safety review into a new Gunalda intersection.

After a tragic spate of deaths on the Wide Bay section of the Bruce Hwy, Mr O'Brien is continuing to lobby Transport Minister Darren Chester to improve the safety and capacity of the highway.

Mr O'Brien has called for more funding to make the highway safer. He raised the need to upgrade the highway through Wide Bay, in his first speech to the Parliament in September 2016.

While Mr O'Brien welcomed safety works near Tiaro, and the Wide Bay Highway intersection upgrade, he said further upgrades were needed on the highway between Gympie and Maryborough.

"Saving lives on the highway is paramount," he said.

Mr O'Brien has also called for a thorough safety review of the intersection at the new Gunalda service station, following a fatal crash there in March.

"I stand shoulder to shoulder with the community and road safety advocates to keep pressure on Federal and State Governments, to achieve road safety projects that are so important for our region, and will protect lives on the highway," he said.



**PROUD AUSTRALIANS:** Llew O'Brien was impressed with the patriotism and penmanship of students of Windera State School, who wrote him a lovely letter requesting an Australian flag.