

Llew O'BRIEN MP

Federal Member for **Wide Bay**

SECURING WIDE BAY'S RECOVERY



A MESSAGE FROM Llew

The 2021-22 Budget continues the Morrison Government's work to strengthen our economy, create jobs, and build infrastructure as we recover from the Covid-19 pandemic.

We are making significant investments in aged care, health and national security that will protect all Australians. Locally, the focus is on creating jobs, improving road safety and transport networks, and projects to build stronger communities like **Peregrine Beach** Community House, Hope Reins in **Gympie**, **Murgon** Cultural Centre and Fossil Museum, and **Maryborough's** Portside Precinct and Broлга Theatre.

We're building a stronger economy with tax relief for 49,100 Wide Bay workers, and 19,500 businesses can reinvest asset write-offs to support local jobs.

There is always more to be done, and I will continue to work to ensure Wide Bay can seize every opportunity for our future.

Llew O'Brien MP
Federal Member for Wide Bay



A BETTER BRUCE HIGHWAY

A safer Bruce Highway will better connect communities, industry and business in Wide Bay with funding in the 2021-22 Budget for the **Cooroy to Curra** Section D Gympie bypass, which is under construction now and due for completion in 2024; and \$11.2 million towards the intersection of the Bruce and Wide Bay Highways at **Bells Bridge**.

There is also funding for the long-awaited overtaking lanes at **Tinana** and \$19,987,698 allocated towards the \$103 million Saltwater Creek upgrade near **Aldershot**.

While good progress is now being made towards these projects, we need to extend four lanes from **Curra** to **Maryborough**, starting with the **Tiaro** bypass, so Wide Bay's economy can grow to create local jobs.

WORKING FOR WIDE BAY



NOOSA
\$192,000 to upgrade drainage at the **Noosa Tigers** AFL oval, enabling more matches and events.



GYMPIE
\$91,185 for improved lighting at **Gympie Showgrounds** to increase community availability.



MARYBOROUGH
\$1.1 million towards a new production line at DTM Timber **Maryborough**, supporting local jobs.



GOOMERI
\$43,950 for a statue at **Goomeri** to commemorate those who served in World War 2.



INNOVATION TO CREATE MORE JOBS

Local jobs are at the heart of a new production line at **Gympie's** Nolan Meats that I opened recently with Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management David Littleproud.

The \$18 million expansion, which received \$4,979,706 in Australian Government funding through the Regional Jobs and Investment package, doubling the processing plant's capacity and supported 45 jobs during

construction – and is creating another 200 ongoing jobs for local Gympie families.

We also visited the **Peregrine Digital Hub** to receive an update on the \$1.8 million FireTech Laboratory, and met with Fireball International, Helitak Firefighting Equipment and McDermott Aviation which are putting Noosa at the forefront of firefighting excellence.



HELPING YOUTHS GET INTO WORK

Tackling Wide Bay's youth unemployment rate is the focus of a new Industry Training Hub that is now open in **Maryborough**, connecting local senior secondary students with local employment and training opportunities.

The Australian Government has engaged BUSY At Work to provide a full-time Career Facilitator to service **Maryborough**, **Gympie**, and the **Burnett** as part of a \$50.6 million investment to improve opportunities for Year 11 and 12 students in regions with high youth unemployment.

STAY IN TOUCH

Copies of my rainfall calendar, '100 ways to praise a child' and times tables posters, growth charts, and age pension guides are available free from my office. For your copy, please call 4121 2936.

You can also stay in touch via my website which is www.llewobrien.com.au or Facebook www.facebook.com/LlewOBrienLNP.



LISTENING TO OUR VETERANS

Assistant Minister for Defence Andrew Hastie and I visited **Tewantin-Noosa**, **Cooroy**, **Gympie** and **Maryborough** RSLs recently, to hear about the issues that matter to our local veterans.

There was strong support for my push for a Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, as well as a range of views on matters including the importance of Australia's sovereign defence capability, and the need for the Department of Veterans' Affairs to improve service delivery.



KEEPING AUSTRALIANS SAFE

We're providing an extra \$1.9 billion over the decade to **strengthen our national security**, law enforcement and intelligence agencies. To be prepared for international challenges, the Government is investing \$270 billion over 10 years to bolster our defence capabilities.

This backs up our significant investments in **Maryborough** including \$785,150 through the Sovereign Industrial Capability Priority program for Global Manufacturing Group; and \$28.5 million in the Rheinmetall NIOA Munitions forging plant that is building our defence capability and creating local jobs.



MORE SUPPORT FOR VETERANS

Ensuring veterans who have served our country have access to occupational therapists and allied health professionals forms a part of a \$61.9 million boost to veterans care that I helped secure in the Budget.

This hard-won investment will increase the availability and quality of care provided to veterans throughout not just Wide Bay, but all of Australia.



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319 Kent Street, Maryborough QLD 4650 07 4121 2936
llew.obrien.mp@aph.gov.au llewobrien.com.au [LlewOBrienLNP](https://www.facebook.com/LlewOBrienLNP)

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SECURING WIDE BAY'S RECOVERY



TAX RELIEF

More than 49,100 Wide Bay low and middle-income earners are getting additional tax relief this year – up to \$1,080 for individuals or \$2,160 for couples.

This **rewards hard work and generates activity**, which in turn helps local businesses and creates jobs.



INVESTMENT FOR JOBS

20,800 businesses in Wide Bay, can write off the full value of eligible assets purchased. For example, this encourages a tradie to buy a vehicle or a manufacturer to expand their production line.

About 6,500 Wide Bay businesses will be able to use the extended loss carry back measure.

These incentives will **generate opportunities for small businesses**, by encouraging them to invest, hire and grow.



SKILLS AND TRAINING

Boosting skills and job-readiness is essential for helping people into work. We are doubling our commitment to the JobTrainer Fund.

50% wage subsidies will support more than **170,000 new apprenticeships** and traineeships – building on the 100,000 apprenticeships supported nationally.



PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

Australia's emissions are now **19% lower than in 2005** and are at their lowest level since 1995. We have the world's highest uptake of rooftop solar.

In this Budget we are investing a further \$1.6 billion to fund priority technologies, including clean hydrogen and energy storage.

The Morrison Government is also investing in upgrading recycling capabilities. The Budget includes \$100 million in additional funding to protect our oceans.



IMPROVED AGED CARE

I want to ensure senior Australians have access to the care they need, and a record \$17.7 billion Budget commitment will help 33,236 Wide Bay seniors.

This will deliver **80,000 new home care packages** (bringing the total to 275,000) and will support 33,000 new training places for personal carers, higher payments for residential care, upgrading care in regional areas like Wide Bay.

FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR WIDE BAY

The NDIS will receive an extra \$13.2 billion over four years, to a total of \$122 billion including Federal and State contributions, which will help support 3,196 participants in Wide Bay.

There were 328,478 Medicare telehealth consultations in Wide Bay since the pandemic began and these services are now being extended.

Federal funding for Wide Bay schools continues to increase under the LNP Government, rising from \$78 million in 2013 to \$148 million in 2021.

In the past year 2,275,256 free or subsidised medicines were delivered through the PBS in Wide Bay.

The JobKeeper payment supported 5,400 businesses and 18,000 employees in Wide Bay to help them through the pandemic.



HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

Keeping Australians safe from COVID-19 is absolutely critical for our health and our economic recovery. A \$20 billion Budget commitment is supporting the vaccine rollout and strengthening our health system.

New medicines are being listed on the PBS to treat breast and lung cancer, osteoporosis, asthma and chronic migraines.

A new national network of 57 additional mental health treatment centres and satellites, and an expansion of the headspace program, will bolster services for the young and old in regional areas.



WOMEN'S SAFETY

A further \$1.1 billion will help improve women's safety and security through: more emergency accommodation; more legal assistance; more counselling; and more financial support for those escaping abusive relationships.



SUPPORTING CHILDCARE

An increase to the Child Care Subsidy for families with more than one child aged up to five in childcare, will **benefit around 880 Wide Bay families**.

The Government will also remove the \$10,560 cap on the Child Care Subsidy.



BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES

The Morrison Government is helping councils in Wide Bay to build better communities through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program.

The 2021 Budget allocations are:

- Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council - \$79,698
- Fraser Coast Regional Council - \$3,824,114
- Gympie Regional Council - \$2,723,604
- Noosa Shire Council - \$1,580,692
- South Burnett Regional Council - \$3,288,930
- Sunshine Coast Regional Council - \$7,307,535

Financial Assistance Grants and the Roads to Recovery program will also continue to help councils deliver services and local roads.

The Tablelands Road Bridge at **Cooran** and Wahpunga Lane Bridge at **Kin Kin** will be completed in 2021-22 with \$1,240,949 allocated through the Bridges Renewal Program towards these projects.



INVESTING IN WIDE BAY'S FUTURE

Creating new jobs is a top priority for me and boosting our defence manufacturing capability through a \$28.5 million investment in **Maryborough's** Rheinmetall Nioa Munitions plant will create 100 jobs.

Improving water security remains a priority with an \$18 million commitment for a water storage project for **Maryborough** and \$450,000 towards the Government's \$3.5 million contribution to the North & **South Burnett** Water Infrastructure Feasibility Study.



INVESTING IN COMMUNITY PROJECTS

The Morrison Government's Budget is delivering for the following community projects:

- \$97,500 towards the new education centre at Hope Reins in **Langshaw**
- \$10,000 towards a new amenities block at **Cooroy** Badminton Hall
- \$98,750 to complete the **Maryborough** Portside Cultural Precinct
- \$40,000 for the **Gympie** Avenues Lifestyle Support Association's Sherwood Hall refurbishment
- \$1,087,900 towards the \$1.5 million **Murgon** Fossil Museum and Cultural Centre
- \$1,517,500 out of a total Australian Government \$2,550,179 contribution for the new **Peregian Beach** Community House

A \$250 million extension of the Building Better Regions Fund will provide funding opportunities for councils and community organisations, and a further round of the popular Stronger Communities Program will give not-for-profit and volunteer groups funding to purchase equipment, build new facilities, or renovate buildings.

