



# Llew O'BRIEN

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR WIDE BAY

## Summer 2017/18 Community Newsletter



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### Christmas Greetings from the O'Brien family...

At this very busy time of year, I hope everyone is able to take some time out to spend with their loved ones and enjoy the festive season.

Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ whose love brought salvation and the message of peace and goodwill to all.

As we celebrate with family and friends, it is important to remember that message, and the people in our community who are less fortunate - the homeless, the jobless, the sick, and the lonely - and consider what we might be able to do to comfort those in need.

Sharon and I wish everyone a peaceful and safe Christmas, and extend our very best wishes for a successful 2018.



### Working for Wide Bay



**NOOSA:** Celebrating the re-opening of Noosa Heads Surf Life Saving clubhouse. Llew O'Brien provided \$20,000 as an election commitment for renovations to the building.



**GYMPIE:** Presenting One Mile State School student leaders with a new set of flags, following a devastating fire at the school.



**MURGON:** Minister for Small Business Michael McCormack (left) and Llew O'Brien (right) dropped in to Murgon Tyre and Auto to discuss small business, with owners Lanse and Leanne Rea.



**MARYBOROUGH:** Mr O'Brien, a former police officer, paid his respects at Police Remembrance Day.

### Cooroy to Curra Section C opens ahead of schedule

Driving home for Christmas will be easier for motorists on the Bruce Highway after major work was completed early on the \$384.2 million Cooroy to Curra Section C upgrade.

The 10.5 kilometres of duplicated highway forms part of the \$8.5 billion, 10-year Bruce Highway Upgrade Program.

Federal Member for Wide Bay Llew O'Brien said the upgrade would dramatically improve road safety.

"The completion of Section C brings us a step closer to



a duplicated Bruce Highway from Brisbane to just south of Gympie, which will increase flood immunity, reduce travel times, improve capacity, and most importantly, save lives," Mr O'Brien said.

"The project has also delivered a major boost to the economy through local and regional job creation - more than 680 jobs have been created over the life of the project."

The Australian Government has committed \$307.4 million and the Queensland Government \$76.8 million to fund the Bruce Highway - Cooroy to Curra - Section C project.

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## \$16,362 CCMT grant strengthens Cooloola Coast community

Cooloola Coast Medical Transport will continue its vital service taking patients to medical appointments, after receiving funding through round three of the Stronger Communities Program.

Member for Wide Bay Llew O'Brien said the \$16,362 grant would enable the organisation to trade in its old vehicles and purchase three new Kia Cerato sedans, ensuring the service remained safe, reliable and affordable.

"This organisation provides a much-needed service for people in the region who might not otherwise be able to get to their specialist appointments," Mr O'Brien said.

"I am delighted they will be able to continue their good work to help people from Tin Can Bay, Cooloola Cove, and Rainbow Beach."



## Men's Sheds on the move across Wide Bay

Wide Bay blokes have a special place to socialise and learn new skills, with Coalition Government funding for five Men's Sheds across the region.

Llew O'Brien was pleased to announce a \$16,362 Stronger Communities grant to help make the Kilkivan Men's Shed a reality, with a further \$4,842 from the Australian Government to buy tools and equipment once the shed is up and running.

Pomona Men's Shed received \$4,000 towards new flooring, Colorbond sheeting, doors, lighting and power installation, which will provide safer facilities, and Murgon's Men's Shed received \$5,000 for an electrical upgrade to the workshop.

"This funding is in addition to my \$25,000 election commitment which supported the extension of the Murgon

shed to enable more activities and projects to be undertaken," Mr O'Brien said.

Mr O'Brien was also proud to open the Noosa Men's Shed - Long Shed earlier this year, with \$22,000 provided as an election commitment.

In addition, Tin Can Bay will soon have a Men's Shed, with the building currently under construction thanks to Mr O'Brien's \$68,000 election commitment, plus an extra \$8,000 from the Coalition Government.

"Men's Sheds help build stronger communities by encouraging participation and supporting volunteers" Mr O'Brien said.

"They serve an important role by reducing social isolation and improving mental health, particularly among retired and older men, and providing mentors for those facing uncertainty in life or who are looking to acquire new skills."



## Funding for Mary Valley Growers Co-operative to bear fruit

Customers across the Mary Valley, Noosa, and Gympie will have easier access to fresh, local produce after the Mary Valley Growers Co-operative received a \$34,000 grant.

Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister Luke Hartsuyker and Mr O'Brien announced the funding, which will help establish more efficient business systems to improve returns through the farm gate, and was provided through the \$13.8 million Farm Co-operatives and Collaboration Pilot Program.

Queensland farmers will also share in \$134 million for a landmark new Smart Farms program under phase 2 of the Coalition Government's \$1 billion National Landcare Program.

Mr Hartsuyker and Mr O'Brien visited two Landcare champions in the South Burnett and Mary Valley, to see how sustainable agriculture and farm management projects are achieving results on the ground.



Mr O'Brien said the Rockemer family at Boonara and Stephen Burgess at Dagon were passionate about Landcare, and local knowledge such as theirs was vital to deliver practical environmental and financial benefits to farming communities.

"The Australian Government is committed to supporting Landcare, and it is great to be able to hear first-hand what local people are doing to care for their environments," Mr O'Brien said.

## \$1.5 million to revitalise Upper Mary Street

Gympie's CBD will get a fresh lease on life with \$1.5 million in Building Better Regions funding to revitalise the Upper Mary Street Precinct.

Member for Wide Bay Llew O'Brien said the Upper Mary Street Precinct Revitalisation Project would give a face lift to an iconic part of Gympie, with new street furniture, extensive tree planting, atmospheric lighting and public art reflecting the city's gold-mining past.

The revamp will provide significant economic, community and social benefits, including the creation of 38 full-time equivalent jobs during the construction process and 19 long-term jobs.

"This funding through the Coalition Government's Building Better

Regions Fund will help ensure the Gympie community remains strong and vibrant for many decades to come, and I am delighted it will now be delivered," Mr O'Brien said.

A further \$200,824 was provided by the Building Better Regions Fund community investment stream to boost events including the Kilkivan Great Horse Ride Festival, Gympie's Rush Festival, business development events and a Floating Land exhibition in Noosa, and business innovation sessions in the South Burnett.

## \$2.4 million for three bridge upgrades

Three new bridge projects will improve traffic flow at Noosa, with \$2.4 million funding provided through round three of the Federal Government's Bridges Renewal Program.

Llew O'Brien announced the Mary River Road bridge and Old Noosa Road bridge would be replaced, and Orealla Bridge would receive an upgrade to ensure the roads remained safe and accessible.

"These works will have significant flow-on benefits for local businesses and tourism, as well as creating jobs during the construction process," Mr O'Brien said.

Round three of the Bridges Renewal program provided \$162.53 million to renew and upgrade 186 bridges across Australia.

Bridges including Gutchy Creek (Fraser Coast), Marshlands (South Burnett), Goomong Road (Gympie) and Kandanga Creek Road (Gympie) have been funded under previous rounds of the program.

## Noosa National Park coastal track upgraded



Llew O'Brien delivers funding for improved access to Noosa National Park.

The Noosa National Park coastal walking track has been upgraded to improve access for people with a disability, providing new recreational opportunities for all park users.

"The Headland section is the second most-visited national park in Queensland, and the coastal track brings more than 1.4 million visitors each year," Llew O'Brien said.

"Now parents with prams and people with disabilities will be able

to experience the beauty of the Park, comfortably and safely.

"This upgrade has been carefully considered to preserve the delicate natural environment while allowing for improved public use.

"I was pleased to confirm \$400,000 in funding from the Coalition Government for the project during the Federal election and it's fantastic to see the results of that commitment."

### Restored Tait-Duke Cottage opens in Tewantin

Tait-Duke Community Cottage is now open for use by local community organisations in Tewantin, after receiving \$20,000 from the Coalition Government.

The restored cottage was given a fresh makeover so the public can enjoy it for generations to come, with funding provided through the Stronger Communities Programme.

Mr O'Brien said it was great to see the historic Queenslander revitalised.

"I'm pleased to support initiatives like this that get people job-ready and make our communities better places to live," he said.

### Salute to those who served in Rainbow Beach

Rainbow Beach RSL Sub-branch received \$3971 to upgrade the concrete and tile area at the Rainbow Beach Cenotaph, through the Coalition Government's Saluting Their Service grants program.

"This grant will ensure the Cenotaph remains a safe, attractive place for the Rainbow Beach community to honour the men and women who defend our country," Mr O'Brien said.

"We must keep alive the Anzac spirit so future generations understand the value of our freedom, and the sacrifices made to maintain it."

### Poona & Wide Bay Highway mobile phone tower update

The mobile phone network will soon be improved at Poona and along part of the Wide Bay Highway.

Telecommunications companies will be able to lodge tenders for new towers, and the successful operators are expected to be announced before the end of the year.

Following the tender announcements, construction will be scheduled to commence as soon as possible.

Funding for the towers has been provided by the Federal Government as part of an election commitment by Llew O'Brien.





# Llew O'Brien and the Federal Liberal Nationals Government are delivering more than \$500 million to Wide Bay.

*"Working for Wide Bay"*

## Fraser Coast Regional Area - Funding Highlights

- ✓ \$30,400,000 - Reconstruction of Tinana Interchange, Bruce Highway
- ✓ \$13,513 Building Excellence in Support & Training (BEST)
- ✓ \$3,832,854 - Roads to Recovery Program 2016/17
- ✓ \$370,000 - Betterment Fund
- ✓ \$11,658 - Contribution towards new shed for Maryborough Motor Cyclist Club Inc
- ✓ \$13,185 - Contribution towards technology upgrade at Peter Pan Literacy Club
- ✓ \$5,350 - Contribution towards new kitchen for St Vincent de Paul
- ✓ \$1,600,000 - Bruce Highway Resurfacing at Aldershot
- ✓ \$325,000 - River Terrace extension, Brolga Theatre
- ✓ \$6,626,148 - Financial Assistance Grants
- ✓ \$14,688,000 - Tiaro Safety Works on Bruce Highway
- ✓ \$3,320,308 - Roads to Recovery Program 2017/18
- ✓ \$191,000 - Blackspot funding - Churchill Street
- ✓ \$300,000 - Indigenous drug and alcohol rehabilitation program

## South Burnett Regional Council Area - Funding Highlights

- ✓ \$2,638,102 - Roads to Recovery Program 2016/17
- ✓ \$20,000 - Contribution towards new playground, Murgon
- ✓ \$9,272 - Murgon Men's Shed - National Shed Development Program
- ✓ \$25,000 - Shed extension - Murgon Men's Shed
- ✓ \$6,849,934 - Financial Assistance Grants
- ✓ \$396,698 - Safer Communities CCTV cameras
- ✓ \$2,285,323 - Roads to Recovery Program 2017/18

## Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council Area - Funding Highlights

- ✓ \$64,080 - Roads to Recovery Program 2016/17
- ✓ \$237,000 - Indigenous Advancement Strategy - Cherbourg Ration Shed
- ✓ \$12,585 - Ration Shed Museum
- ✓ \$581,102 - Financial Assistance Grants
- ✓ \$55,510 - Roads to Recovery Program 2017/18

## Electorate Wide - Funding Highlights

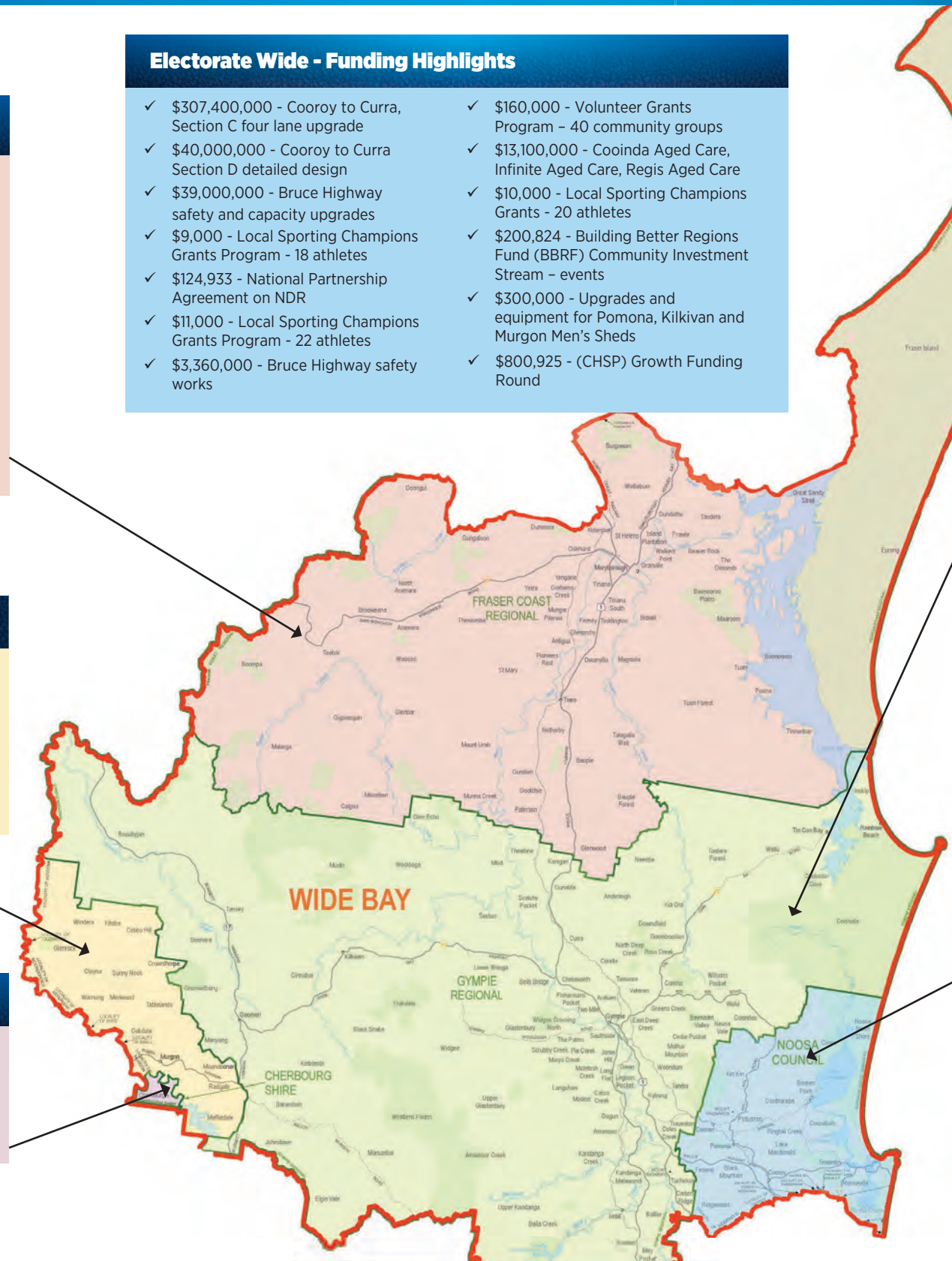
- ✓ \$307,400,000 - Cooroy to Curra, Section C four lane upgrade
- ✓ \$40,000,000 - Cooroy to Curra Section D detailed design
- ✓ \$39,000,000 - Bruce Highway safety and capacity upgrades
- ✓ \$9,000 - Local Sporting Champions Grants Program - 18 athletes
- ✓ \$124,933 - National Partnership Agreement on NDR
- ✓ \$11,000 - Local Sporting Champions Grants Program - 22 athletes
- ✓ \$3,360,000 - Bruce Highway safety works
- ✓ \$160,000 - Volunteer Grants Program - 40 community groups
- ✓ \$13,100,000 - Cooina Aged Care, Infinite Aged Care, Regis Aged Care
- ✓ \$10,000 - Local Sporting Champions Grants - 20 athletes
- ✓ \$200,824 - Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) Community Investment Stream - events
- ✓ \$300,000 - Upgrades and equipment for Pomona, Kilkivan and Murgon Men's Sheds
- ✓ \$800,925 - (CHSP) Growth Funding Round

## Gympie Regional Council Area - Funding Highlights

- ✓ \$5,000,000 - Cooina Aged Care for capital works
- ✓ \$16,590 - Building Excellence in Support & Training (BEST) Gympie RSL Sub Branch
- ✓ \$1,720 - Building Excellence in Support & Training (BEST) Mary Valley RSL Sub Branch
- ✓ \$2,171,319 - Roads to Recovery Program 2016/17
- ✓ \$7,800 - Renovations for Guides Queensland, Gympie branch
- ✓ \$7,459 - Contribution towards new lighting Mary Valley Show Society
- ✓ \$756,595 - Capital Grants Program - Gympie Flexible Learning Centre
- ✓ \$535,000 - Capital Grants Program - Cooloola Christian College
- ✓ \$245,000 - Capital Grants Program - Victory College
- ✓ \$96,750 - Natural Disaster Resilience Program
- ✓ \$5,020,322 - Financial Assistance Grants
- ✓ \$1003 - Saluting Their Service - Kilkivan RSL
- ✓ \$8,000 - National Shed Development Program - Tin Can Bay Men's Shed
- ✓ \$1,880,961 - Roads to Recovery Program 2017/18
- ✓ \$20,000 - Digital Literacy Grants
- ✓ \$750,000 - Blackspot funding - Station Road
- ✓ \$3971 - Saluting Their Service - Rainbow Beach RSL
- ✓ \$11,600 - Regional Arts Funding
- ✓ \$300,000 - Rural General Practice Grants
- ✓ \$1,500,000 - Upper Mary Street Precinct - Building Better Regions
- ✓ \$355,000 - Capital Grants Program - Hospitality Centre, classrooms
- ✓ \$34,000 - Farm Co-operatives and Collaboration Pilot Program
- ✓ \$16,362 - Construction - Kilkivan Men's Shed
- ✓ \$24,600 - Building Excellence in support & Training (BEST) for Tin Can Bay RSL Sub Branch

## Noosa Council Area - Funding Highlights

- ✓ \$22,000 - Noosa Men's Long Shed
- ✓ \$6,655 - Building Excellence in Support & Training (BEST) for Tewanin Noosa RSL Sub Branch
- ✓ \$1,278,139 - Roads to Recovery Program 2016/17
- ✓ \$11,352 - Contribution towards new building for Genealogical & Historical Research Group Inc.
- ✓ \$20,000 - For new lighting for Noosa District Rugby Union Club
- ✓ \$5,160 - Contribution towards new broadcasting equipment for Noosa District Community FM Radio Assoc Inc.
- ✓ \$20,000 - Contribution towards renovations for Tait-Duke Cottage
- ✓ \$2,103,778 - Financial Assistance Grants
- ✓ \$2,500 - Veteran & Community Grants Program - Noosa Sub Branch Vietnam Veterans Association
- ✓ \$124,798 - Natural Disaster Resilience Program
- ✓ \$1,107,221 - Roads to Recovery Program 2017/18
- ✓ \$500,000 - Accelerating Commercialisation - Entrepreneurs' Programme - Thedocyrd Pty Ltd
- ✓ \$965,644 - Accelerating Commercialisation - Entrepreneurs' Programme - Noosa Eco Marine Holdings
- ✓ \$2,400,000 - Bridge Renewal Program - Mary River Road bridge replacement, Old Noosa Road bridge replacement, and Orealla Bridge





# LIBERAL NATIONAL GOVERNMENT DELIVERING FOR AUSTRALIANS

## Fairer, needs-based school funding



- Funding is estimated to grow by an additional \$23.5 billion for Australia's schools over the next decade from 2018-2027.
- Every school will receive a fair amount of federal funding based on their individual needs, with extra assistance for those with the greatest needs, such as students with disability.
- We have also passed child care reforms that will deliver an extra \$430 million to help families access pre-school, building on a record \$2.5 billion additional investment in early childhood education.

## Strong economic growth



- Over \$34 billion of sensible Budget repair since the election.
- On track for a Budget surplus in 2020-21.

## Creating more and better skilled Aussie jobs



- Getting more Australians into work with 232,000 jobs created over the last year.
- Replacing 457 visas with an improved temporary skilled visa scheme to ensure Australians have first priority for Australian jobs.

## Record investment in Infrastructure



- Record investment in the projects Australia needs to connect communities, create jobs and grow the economy.
- Our total investment of over \$75 billion includes transformational projects across the country.
- Starting construction this year on the Melbourne to Brisbane Inland Rail project, delivering \$8.4 billion to get it done.



## A stronger regional Australia



- Fast track cheaper finance for farmers and deliver water infrastructure through the new \$4 billion Regional Investment Corporation.
- Establish a \$472 million Regional Growth Fund to build critical local infrastructure to unlock regional growth opportunities.
- Faster, more reliable rail services to connect regional centres to capital cities, with a fair share of the new \$10 billion National Rail Program.
- A regional jobs and investment package to create jobs with \$220 million across 10 regions, including \$20 million for the Wide Bay Burnett region.

## Fully funding the NDIS and guaranteeing Medicare



- Securing the future of the National Disability Insurance Scheme with real money to provide certainty and security.
- Securing Medicare for all Australians with an increase in funding of \$2.4 billion over four years.

## Tax cuts for small business



- 3.2 million small and medium businesses, employing 6.5 million Australians, will benefit from cuts to company tax.
- Extending the \$20,000 instant asset write off for another 12 months to help small businesses improve their cash flow and hire more staff.

## Delivering better health care



- Investing more than ever in Medicare and bulk-billing rates for GP consultations are at a record high.
- Making mental health a priority with over \$4 billion invested in services – including new suicide prevention trials in Gympie and Maryborough.
- Providing record investment in new lifesaving medicines or vaccines – such as the new Gardasil 9 vaccine to protect young Australians against HPV and cervical cancer.



## Llew O'Brien is prioritising better health outcomes



### Mental Health

A new *headspace* youth mental health service will be established at Gympie from July 2018, to help support the mental health of Wide Bay residents aged 12 to 25.

The new program will receive \$366,000 in Federal funding during 2017-18, and a further \$350,000 in 2018-19 and each year thereafter for service delivery.

The Wide Bay Sunshine Coast Primary Health Network will commission the Gympie *headspace* through Tewantin's United Synergies, which also runs StandBy - Support After Suicide, a bereavement support program.

### Suicide Prevention

A National Suicide Prevention Trial is being delivered in Gympie and Maryborough, with a particular focus on men.

The region's Primary Health Network is receiving \$1 million per year from 2016-17 to 2018-19 for the trial.

Community forums have been held in Gympie and Maryborough; suicide prevention action plans are being developed; and a working group has been established.

### GPs

A Gympie medical practice has received a \$300,000 Federal Government grant to expand its practice and training facilities, which will in turn encourage trainee medical staff to stay in regional areas.

"Doctors who complete their training in regional and rural areas are more likely to stay than their metro counterparts, so this is a positive step towards increasing the number of available doctors in Gympie," Llew O'Brien said.

### Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation

A new drug and alcohol rehabilitation program will help Indigenous clients in Maryborough, after receiving \$300,000 in funding from the Australian Government.

Galangoor Duwalami will run the program, which meets a specific need for withdrawal management, counselling services and individual case management for Indigenous clients, including a kinship and peer support program.

### National Disability Insurance Scheme

Mr O'Brien hosted round table discussions with local disability service providers and the Assistant Minister for Disability Services, Jane Prentice, in Maryborough and Gympie.

The visit gave local disability service providers an opportunity to discuss their issues, ideas and suggestions, how the NDIS will operate, employment and training programs for people with disability before the scheme is introduced on the Fraser Coast and Gympie in July 2018.



care in the region, and demonstrates the Coalition Government's commitment to providing a sustainable aged care system," Mr O'Brien said.

"Older Australians are the people who built our nation, defended us and cared for us, and it is important that they in turn are cared for with an aged care system that meets their needs."

The Coalition Government funding is part of additional \$649 million per year to create 9,911 new residential aged care places across Australia.

## Llew O'Brien is working for Jobs

Federal Member for Wide Bay Llew O'Brien said the Coalition Government is committed to driving investment and jobs in regional areas.

The government's Regions 2030 plan focuses on health, education, jobs and economic development, infrastructure and communications initiatives to create jobs, innovation and economic growth in regional communities.

"The 2017-18 Federal Budget also reinforces our commitment to unlock Wide Bay's potential and includes funding for significant infrastructure projects that will boost employment as well as the \$20 million Wide Bay Burnett Jobs Package to support local businesses to create jobs," Mr O'Brien said.

Mr O'Brien also urged people to take advantage 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
- **Launch into Work** - a \$10 million program for employers to use a pre-employment project as a way of recruiting
- **Seasonal Work Incentive Trial** - incentives for employers to hire Australians, and for jobseekers to trial seasonal horticultural work

## Llew O'Brien is working for Aged Care

Llew O'Brien was proud to announce \$13.1 million in recurrent funding to create 200 new residential aged care places in Maryborough, Tin Can Bay, and Gympie.

Under the 2016-17 Aged Care Approvals Round, six new places will be provided at Gympie's Cooina Aged Care Centre; Regis Aged Care in Tin Can Bay will receive 50 aged care places; and 144 places were earmarked for a proposed centre in Tinana by Infin8 Care

Gympie's Cooina Aged Care Centre also received a \$5 million capital grant towards the construction of its new \$11.9 million 50-bed building.

"This funding is a major investment in both our community and in the future of aged





Llew O'Brien, Senator Matt Canavan and Member Tony Perrett at the Wide Bay Highway and Bruce Highway intersection.

## Roads to Recovery

Councils in Wide Bay received more than \$8.6 million in the 2017-18 Federal Budget to assist them maintain and upgrade their local roads, through the Roads to Recovery programme.

Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council received \$55,510; the Fraser Coast Regional Council was allocated \$3,320,308; Gympie Regional Council received \$1,880,961; Noosa Council received \$1,107,221; and the South Burnett Regional Council was allocated \$2,285,323 to help each council upgrade local roads.

The Australian Government will provide \$1.86 billion to the Program from 2017-18 to 2020-21. From 2016, the Government will provide a further \$50 million per annum from 2019-20 onwards, bringing the annual commitment to \$400 million.



Old Maryborough Road at Chatsworth was widened with funding from the Roads to Recovery program.



Llew O'Brien officially opened the Tinana Interchange.

## New Tinana Interchange now open

A roads project that will help drive the growing Wide Bay region well into the future is complete, with the \$38 million Tinana Interchange upgrade now open to traffic.

Llew O'Brien said the upgrade would benefit thousands of motorists and was an important step towards delivering a safer, more efficient Bruce Highway.

The project supported an estimated 118 direct jobs during the life of the project, and construction was completed in September 2017.

The Australian Government committed up to \$30.4 million and the Queensland Government \$7.6 million to fund the \$38 million Tinana Interchange project.

## Wide Bay Highway update

Detailed designs are underway to upgrade the Bruce Highway and Wide Bay Highway intersection, north of Gympie.

The Federal Government has committed \$11.2 million in the 2017-18 Budget to upgrade the intersection at Bells Bridge, to reduce delays and improve safety by separating traffic movements, and allow for continuity of flow for southbound Bruce Highway traffic.

The upgrade will improve safety and capacity to support future growth, with about 12,000 vehicles using the intersection daily – including more than 2,000 heavy vehicles.

As part of the detailed design activities, community engagement, geotechnical investigations and environmental surveys are being completed to refine the intersection.

## Fighting for Section D

As a former traffic accident investigator, Federal Member for Wide Bay Llew O'Brien is keenly interested in road safety.

The Bruce Highway is absolutely central to developing Queensland, and we need more investment to make it safer, faster, and less prone to flooding to keep the wheels of our economy turning.

With Section A from Cooroy to Sankeys Road now open, and Section C of the Cooroy to Curra upgrade nearing completion, Mr O'Brien is calling on the Federal Government to finish the job and fast-track the completion of Section D, which takes four lanes to Curra.

Mr O'Brien led a delegation of Wide Bay Burnett mayors (pictured) to Canberra to meet with Infrastructure and Transport Minister Darren Chester to advocate for Section D.



"Section D includes a complete bypass of Gympie, and will have enormous flow-on benefits for the people of Wide Bay-Burnett," Mr O'Brien said.

"The key priority on our roads is safety, and when complete, Section D will transform this part of the Bruce Highway into the safe, high-speed, high-volume corridor it was intended to be. It is needed as a matter of urgency to protect lives on the highway and ensure improved traffic flow."



**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 or 4121 2936**



## Warm Welcome...

Llew O'Brien was delighted to welcome students from Windera and Goomeri State Schools who visited his office in Parliament House, Canberra.

The students asked very interesting questions about Llew and his role as their Federal representative.

If your school is planning a visit to Parliament House please let Mr O'Brien's office know and he will try to arrange a behind-the-scenes tour.

## pre-school FUNDING

Pre-schoolers in Maryborough will be among the first in Australia to be introduced to science, technology, mathematics and engineering (STEM) through a series of fun, play-based apps.

Mr O'Brien announced Village Kids Children's Centre in Granville was one of 100 pre-schools to be part of the Coalition Government's Early Learning STEM Australia (ELSA) pilot.

"By helping children explore new ideas and skills in science, technology, engineering and maths, this \$6 million program will boost their literacy and numeracy," he said.