



# Llew O'BRIEN

## Federal Member for **Wide Bay**

### Summer Newsletter 2022-23

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## A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM *Llew*

As we approach Christmas and the end of the year, I wish everyone a safe and joyous Christmas.

Christmas is a time of peace and goodwill, and a time to share with family and friends. It is also an opportunity to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas, to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, to think about how we can help others less fortunate than ourselves, and consider how we can share the Christian message of hope, love and salvation.

Road safety has always been very important to me, and several key projects funded by the former Coalition Government will deliver improved safety for motorists on the Bruce Highway in Wide Bay.

Construction of the Gympie bypass is on track to open in 2024. This \$1 billion project will deliver a realignment and upgrade of the Bruce Highway to four lanes from south of Gympie through to Curra along a new 26 kilometre corridor. It has been designed to increase safety and flood immunity on this section of our national highway.

Good progress has also been made on the upgrade of the Maryborough to Torbanlea section of the Bruce Highway, with this section due to be completed by the end of 2022.

The October Budget failed to clearly identify a timeline for the Tiaro bypass. Wide Bay needs

to see a full funding profile for the project so we know when the Australian Government will allocate the \$268.8 million on a year by year basis. This will tell us when major construction will commence and when the new corridor will be open to traffic. The longer the Tiaro bypass is delayed the more it will cost, and the longer lives will be at risk.

There is an urgent need for the Australian and Queensland Governments to plan for four lanes to fill in the gaps between Curra and Tiaro, and from Tiaro to Maryborough. More than 11,000 vehicles use this dangerous section of the Bruce Highway daily, and it needs to be upgraded to four lanes.

On a positive note, the Peregian Beach Community House is now open. Construction of this multi-functional community facility was made possible by a \$2.5 million grant from the former Coalition Government's Building Better Regions Fund.

I hope that everyone has a happy and safe Christmas and New Year. Please help create jobs by shopping at local businesses and buying Australian made, and always take care on the road and drive safely.

- Llew O'Brien



## STRONGER COMMUNITY GRANTS



### MARYBOROUGH

Endeavour Foundation Maryborough received \$8,744 for their Ready for Work Program



### RAINBOW BEACH

Rainbow Beach Surf Lifesaving Club received \$15,000 to expand their patrol capabilities



### NOOSA

Noosa Shire Arts & Crafts Association received \$13,000 for pottery equipment



### CHERBOURG

Cherbourg Men's Shed received \$13,000 for their timber project



# BUDGET HOPE FOR PROJECTS

After working with local community groups and the former Liberal and Nationals Government, I secured funding for a range of projects in Wide Bay.

In a welcome move in the October Budget, the new Australian Government agreed to honour these funding allocations, provided the organisations are able to execute a contract in the next six months.

Maryborough Military and Colonial Museum is home to the biggest collection of medals and memorabilia outside of the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. A \$700,000 grant will improve access to the building so more people can visit the Museum.



Maryborough Military and Colonial Museum

More than 100 volunteers give of their time and knowledge to showcase the unique collection curated by the Museum's founder, the late John Meyers. This investment will complement the Fraser Coast Military Trail including the landmark Gallipoli to Armistice Memorial in Queens Park.

In Gympie, a new Veterans Memorial will honour the service and sacrifice of local defence and ex service personnel. Funding of up to \$1.8 million is available to the Gympie RSL Sub Branch to establish the memorial which will become a special place of commemoration and reflection for the Gympie community.



Gympie RSL Sub Branch

Noosa's beloved Katie Rose Cottage Hospice at Doonan has been allocated \$1.5 million to expand its end-of-life care services. The funding will be used to increase the number of bedrooms at the hospice from three to five, and provide space for administrative support. The Hospice is a peaceful haven set in beautifully maintained gardens, and the 280 volunteers, each in their own special way, have provided care to more than 250 people.



Katie Rose Cottage Hospice

An allocation of \$18 million is available for an offstream water storage project in Maryborough. While this commitment was announced in 2019, the closure of the Maryborough sugar mill caused unforeseen delays to the project. Sunwater, Canegrowers and Rural Funds Management have been working together in the time since and have made good progress on their proposal that will boost local agricultural production.



Noosa Golf Club

Road safety along the Cooroy-Noosa Road at Tewantin will be improved through a \$1.3 million grant for the Noosa Golf Club. The grant will be used to expand the carpark to accommodate vehicles that otherwise park along the busy road. The Club has deep roots in the Noosa community, raising funds for charity, hosting events for community groups, creating local jobs and supporting local producers.



# CELEBRATING WIDE BAY'S

It is estimated that volunteering in Australia has an economic and social value of around \$290 billion a year.

Volunteers are often the glue that holds Wide Bay's communities together, and they make a real and positive difference in the lives of individuals, organisations, and animals in need.

Behind every one of the numerous sporting, recreational, community, or service organisations in Wide Bay, there is a cohort of volunteers who give generously of their time and energy. They perform important work, and the community would not be the same without them.

Volunteering is also a great way to meet people and take on new challenges. With our busy lives, it can be hard to find the time to volunteer, however there are mental and physical health benefits to undertaking community service, including reducing stress and depression, increasing self-confidence, and creating



a sense of purpose and connection to community.

Volunteering can also provide opportunities to advance your career or gain experience in a new field. Volunteering doesn't always have to involve a long-term commitment or take a huge amount of time out of your life.

The work undertaken by volunteers is especially important in times of natural disaster, like the 2022 floods that impacted the Wide Bay region. Organisations like the SES and Rural Fire Brigade are volunteer based groups, and are there when their communities need them most.

Every contribution, no matter how big or small, is important. Whatever your age or life situation, volunteering can help take your mind off your own worries, keep you mentally stimulated, add more zest to your life, and make a positive impact on the wellbeing of others.

## *Thank you to all our Wide Bay Volunteers*



**The Volunteer Grants and Stronger Communities Program provide grants to community, sporting and service groups to help them help others. If you would like to join my grants email list, please email [llew.obrien.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:llew.obrien.mp@aph.gov.au).**



# OCTOBER BUDGET *Update*

Before the election, Labor promised to lower the cost of living and increase wages.

Unfortunately, Labor's Budget does nothing to assist the household budget, and there is no credible plan to deal with inflation, or help families deal with immediate cost of living pressures.

Labor's first Budget takes the axe to the former Coalition Government's popular Building Better Regions Fund which contributed to a range of projects throughout Wide Bay including \$140,000 for an activity and education centre at Hope Reins and \$2.5 million to construct a new Peregrine Beach Community House.

But this means applications that were under assessment in Round 6 won't be assessed, including:

- \$2,075,500 for Noosa District Sports Centre Redevelopment;
- \$10,450,779 for Gympie Council's waste transfer and sewerage projects;
- \$150,000 to upgrade St Vincent de Paul Society's Noosaville premises;
- \$124,750 for a shelter at Cooroy Permaculture Gardens;
- \$50,000 towards construction of Maryborough Military Aviation Museum;
- \$100,000 to upgrade Maryborough Rifle and Pistol Club's rifle range.

Community groups and councils will now have to wait for a new program, with new guidelines and a new funding round to open before they can lodge applications. If your community organisation would like a letter of support, please contact my office and I will be pleased to assist.



Officially opening the Sue Pickles Education and Activity Centre at Hope Reins



Peregrine Beach Community House is providing a new home to local groups



Recognising the work of the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee



Building Excellence in Support and Training and Jubilee Trees grants supporting Veterans at the Murgon RSL Drop-in Centre



A \$249,985 grant is helping Noosa Landcare to restore native vegetation to sustain koala habitats

**Available FREE from Llew's office**

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

**For your copy, please call  
1300 301 968 (landlines)  
or 4121 2936.**



## How I can help?

- ✓ Supporting community organisations
- ✓ Assisting residents with advocacy on local issues

- ✓ Providing assistance with Australian Government departments and agencies
- ✓ Arranging congratulatory messages for significant milestones
- ✓ Attending community events

**Llew O'BRIEN**  
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