

# Michael McCormack MP

*Delivering for the Riverina & Central West*



May 2019

## Together, we are getting things done

**BEING your voice in Parliament is about getting things done.**

Whether it is making sure there's a doctor to see you in the regions through the Riverina (Wagga Wagga) and Central West (Orange) Rural Medical Schools – my first priority when I became Deputy Prime Minister – or securing a new Police Citizens Youth Club in Wagga Wagga with \$10 million, things have really started happening since The Nationals came to Government.

But it's not just the big-ticket items which have helped make the Riverina and Central West even better places to live, work and raise a family.

In communities big and small, we have secured needs-based record funding for local schools, listed more life-saving drugs on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and built the Grenfell Medical Centre the community desperately needs.

Gundagai's sewerage system is being brought up to scratch and local communities such as Wantabadgery now have the mobile connectivity they deserve.

More aged care beds are being delivered for more communities including Coolamon, Junee, Lockhart and Wagga Wagga, giving locals the ability to get the care they require closer to home.

Local small businesses are now paying the lowest tax rate since World War II – something I achieved as Small Business Minister – and every local council is getting 25 per cent more funding to make our local roads safer.



**STRONG VOICE:** *Working together we can achieve even more for the Riverina and Central West.*

The logistics hub at Parkes is one step closer thanks to the historic progress on Inland Rail.

And almost \$7 billion has been committed to helping farming families dealing with the devastating drought. The Nationals in Government have increased payments to farming families through the Farm Household Allowance, we are building dams and better water infrastructure and have put a future drought fund in place to better prepare us for the future.

We've achieved a lot together, but I know there is more to do.

That's why The Nationals in Government have delivered the levee bank Wagga Wagga's central business district needs and deserves, helped fund better and safer main streets and upgraded roads and bridges like never before.

This delivery has been done with your support.

Only the Liberals and Nationals have a funding plan for the regions which ensures communities such as ours stay at the heart of your Federal Government.

*Michael McCormack*

**Michael McCormack MP**  
**Federal Member for Riverina**  
**Deputy Prime Minister**  
**Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development**  
**Leader of The Nationals**

**BUDGET BACKS RIVERINA AND CENTRAL WEST: pages 14-15**



# MEDICAL SCHOOL FOR OUR REGION

**A ONCE-IN-A-GENERATION boost to health care for rural and regional Australians, particularly in the Riverina and Central West, was delivered with funding for a rural medical school in Wagga Wagga.**

This came after years of lobbying and the backing of the Rural Medical School Implementation Committee.

The school, part of the Murray-Darling Medical School Network in which the Government is investing \$95.4 million, will support end-to-end training for rural students to study medicine in the regions.

It is the centrepiece of the Stronger Rural Health Strategy, which will strengthen local health services and deliver around 3,000 additional doctors, more than 3,000 extra nurses and hundreds of allied health professionals in rural and regional Australia.

Research shows if we train doctors from start to finish in the regions they are more likely to want to make their home here.

More doctors in rural and regional areas



**BULK BILLING:** Outpatients at Wagga Wagga Base Hospital can now be bulk-billed for MRI scans performed using this state-of-the-art machine.



**BREAKTHROUGH:** Celebrating the breakthrough funding announcement for the Murray-Darling Medical School Network with the head of the University of NSW Medicine's Wagga Wagga campus, Associate Professor John Preddy.

mean residents get the health care they need and deserve.

Over the past 12 months, the Government has also provided \$1.3 million to the Murrumbidgee Local Health District to enable four health practices, including

three in the Riverina electorate, to each take five medical interns a year on rotation.

The Riverina electorate Practices involved are Glenrock Country Practice in Wagga Wagga, Coolamon Shire Medical Centre and Victoria Street Surgery at Temora.

## Good health outcomes

**OUTPATIENTS of Wagga Wagga Base Hospital now have access to bulk-billed Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scanning services as part of a \$375 million national investment by the Liberal and Nationals' Government.**

The last thing a family should be worrying about is whether a trip to the doctor will require an expensive MRI they simply can't afford.

To reduce the costs of prescriptions, the 2018 Budget included an additional \$2.4 billion for new medicines.

It was particularly pleasing that lobbying on behalf of local families helped secure

the listing of the cystic fibrosis drug Orkambi on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, saving patients up to \$250,000 a year.

In the area of mental health, \$781,500 for the Murrumbidgee Suicide Prevention Program's The Way Back project provides a trained support co-ordinator who contacts a person within 24 hours of being discharged from hospital after a suicide attempt.

As a community, we need to get serious about addressing mental health.

**If you need help, you can call Beyond Blue on 1300 224 636**

## Delivering for the health of rural and regional Australians:

**\$1.3 million** for junior doctor training at Glenrock Country Practice (Wagga Wagga), Coolamon Shire Medical Centre and Victoria Street Surgery (Temora).

**NDIS early intervention support** for Mission Australia and Intereach Limited servicing clients in the Riverina and Central West.

**\$781,500** for The Way Back.

**More than \$500,000** for four general practices in Wagga Wagga, Forbes and Parkes to improve facilities under the Rural General Practice Grants Program.

**\$275,000** for Sunflower House in Wagga Wagga for one-on-one mental health support.

# Elite sporting stadium for Wagga Wagga



**GOOD SPORTS:** At the opening of the new Wagga Wagga multipurpose stadium with Wagga Wagga Netball Association president Rosemary Clarke, Mayor Greg Conkey OAM and some of the netball players who will be among those to benefit from the state-of-the-art facility.

A \$4.4 million grant through the National Stronger Regions Fund ensured the construction of Wagga Wagga's new state-of-the-art indoor sports stadium.

The \$9 million multipurpose complex at the Wagga Wagga Exhibition Centre (Equex) was officially opened in February.

It has three indoor courts and can seat 1,200 people.

As well as giving our sportspeople the facilities they deserve, this new stadium will attract the larger-size conferences, championships and events which belong to a city the size and status of Wagga Wagga.

Construction of the facility created 300 jobs and its future use will give the region a huge economic boost for many years to come.

## PROTECTING WAGGA WAGGA FROM FLOODING

A \$10 million contribution by The Nationals in Government to the Wagga Wagga levee bank upgrade will protect NSW's largest inland city from flooding which threatened to inundate the central business district in 2012 and forced the evacuation of thousands of residents.

The levee upgrade is raising the level of protection to 1 in 100 year flood events and will deliver safety and confidence for the community for years to come.

Improved flood protection is essential for Wagga Wagga's future and strong local advocacy made this project possible at a lesser cost for ratepayers.

Stage 2 of the upgrade is under construction.



**PROTECTING WAGGA WAGGA:** Inspecting levee bank upgrade work in March with Wagga Wagga City Council Senior Project Manager Darryl Woods.

## \$10 MILLION SECURED FOR NEW PCYC FACILITY

WAGGA Wagga's new Police Citizens Youth Club precinct has been given the green light thanks to a \$10 million investment which I fought tirelessly to secure.

The new facility, which will be located on the corner of Fitzhardinge and Edward streets, will have a large multipurpose sports hall, which will be large enough to

house three indoor basketball courts, as well as activity rooms, a café, a youth hub and 120 undercover car parking spaces.

This new location will ensure the youth of the city have a fantastic space for many generations to come and will allow the PCYC to deliver further activities and benefits for the wider Wagga Wagga community.

## BUILDING WAGGA WAGGA'S FUTURE

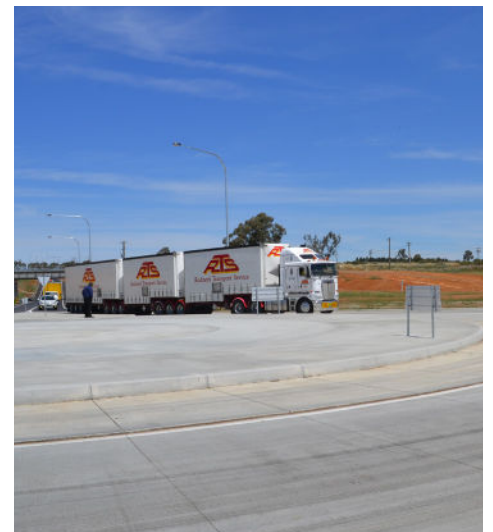
**THE Bomen Enabling Roads project, made possible by a \$14.5 million Federal Government contribution, is a transformative project which is improving road safety and unlocking hundreds of hectares of industrial land on Wagga Wagga's northern outskirts.**

The project was officially opened in late 2017 and while huge benefits are already being delivered in terms of road safety and efficiencies in logistics, it will be pivotal to the success of the planned Riverina Intermodal Freight and Logistic Hub on the arrival of Inland Rail at Wagga Wagga.

This Bomen roads project complements the upgrade of the nearby Eunony Bridge, which is receiving \$4.9 million through the Bridges Renewal Program.

The upgrade will enable higher mass limit vehicles to make use of the newly constructed Bomen route and is just another example of the Government helping country communities grow.

Combined, these projects will enable much of the region's product to get to market sooner and safer.



**SOONER AND SAFER:** A heavy vehicle goes through a new roundabout built as part of the Bomen Enabling Roads project.

# RECORD FUNDING FOR AGED CARE



**CARING:** Meeting residents at Whiddon Group's Narraburra Lodge at Temora with Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care Ken Wyatt (centre) and Temora Mayor Rick Firman OAM.

**LOOKING** after older Australians is a top priority and the Riverina and Central West has been a big winner from record aged care funding by the Liberal and Nationals' Government.

Strong economic management has enabled fantastic outcomes in our region through the delivery of capital works grants and more residential places.

From \$3.6 million through the Building Better Regions Fund to the Whiddon Group to improve its aged care facility at Temora to \$4.2 million for Woodhaven Hostel at Lockhart for infrastructure and extra beds and \$246,555 for the Cowra Retirement Village for bathroom refurbishment, we are meeting the increased demands on the aged care sector.

## Caring for older Australians:

Allawah Lodge (Coolamon) **\$497,153** towards upgrading kitchen and laundry facilities, installing a fence and refurbishing courtyard and sunroom.

Cooinda Court (Junee) **\$300,000** towards refurbishing resident bathrooms and bedrooms, energy-efficient lighting.

Rosedurnate Aged Care Plus Centre (Parkes) **\$40,000** towards installing security cameras.

**206** additional aged care places announced in March 2019, including 130 new places in Wagga Wagga.

## Caring for the environment

**THE** environment has been a big winner from the Liberal and Nationals' Government's strong economic management, which has enabled the funding of transformational projects.

Since 2013-14, more than \$158 million has been spent in the Riverina electorate supporting projects which protect the environment and provide adequate, reliable and affordable energy.

Expressions of interest closed recently for the Communities Environment Program and the Solar Communities Program which, combined, will deliver \$200,000 across the

electorate to fund projects driven by local groups.

Both programs are part of the Government's \$3.5 billion Climate Solutions Package to reduce emissions and support renewables.

Ideas submitted for funding include tree planting, education programs, stormwater harvesting, a reduction of plastics in the environment and installation of solar panels on community-owned buildings.

The Riverina will be a major beneficiary as work ramps up on Snowy Hydro 2.0, which will add 2000 megawatts of renewable energy to the National Electricity Market – enough to power half a million homes.

## A HELPING HAND FOR OUR PEOPLE

**THERE** are many things which bind us as a community, such as sport, education, good public facilities and volunteer groups.

It is vital we back them when they need help to grow or to improve their support of our people.

The Ganmain and Ardlethan swimming pools have been upgraded through a \$245,000 contribution under the Community Development Grants Program, the Weethalle Recreation Ground's surface is being improved with a \$46,186 grant through the Community Sport Infrastructure Program, while a playground in Caragabal received \$14,245 towards installing shade sails over play equipment to make the park a sun-safe option for families.

We also delivered \$178,335 for new amenities and change rooms at the Forbes Botanical Gardens Sports Fields.



**CASH SPLASH:** Testing out the Ganmain swimming pool after improvements to the complex.

## A helping hand:

**\$25,000** to organisations around the electorate in 2018 to celebrate NAIDOC Week.

**\$100,000** to Goldenfields Water County Council to help develop an app to allow council customers to access their hourly water usage on their smart phones or tablets.

# BUILDING OUR GREAT REGION

**BUILDING better regions is at the heart of what The Nationals do.**

And we have delivered more than \$20 million to the Riverina and Central West in first three rounds of the Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF).

We are supporting and investing in our communities to make them even better places to live, work and raise a family.

An upgrade of the Temora Aerodrome, a new medical centre at Grenfell and upgraded central business districts for Parkes, Forbes and Cowra are among the many projects to receive BBRF funding.

More than \$5.3 million for the Temora Aerodrome will upgrade the runway and associated main apron and taxiways.

The funding will also upgrade the drainage network to help prevent intermittent flooding on the runway, aprons and taxiways.

The improved infrastructure will enable the operation of large aircraft, which will further establish the Temora Aviation Museum as a world-class tourist attraction and give the local economy a significant boost.

The BBRF also has a community investments stream which is funding many fantastic projects throughout the electorate, including \$45,800 granted to Coolamon Shire Council for concrete slab launch pads and a portable pumptrack to rotate around Ardlethan, Ganmain, Marrar and Matong.



**BUILDING BETTER HEALTH:** *The new Grenfell medical centre under construction.*

## Investing in our communities:

**Temora Aerodrome \$5.35 million** to upgrade runway, main apron and taxiways.

**Gundagai sewage treatment plant \$3.5 million.**

**Parkes main street upgrade and Cooke Park multipurpose centre \$4.2 million.**

**New Grenfell Medical Centre \$950,000.**

**Forbes commercial precinct \$870,000.**

**Cowra central business district facelift \$829,619.**

## Increasing the capacity of our region to succeed

**DELIVERING the infrastructure our regions need to work and prosper has seen millions of dollars injected into projects as varied as airports, water treatment plants, saleyards and rail facilities.**

Among the essential improvements made

possible through the National Stronger Regions Fund (NSRF) are the Parkes airport upgrade (\$1.55 million) and the Parkes Wastewater Treatment Plant and Recycled Water Scheme (\$8.725 million).

Investment in new and existing social and hard infrastructure by the Liberal and Nationals' Government in the Riverina and

Central West is building upon capacity, improving efficiency and creating local jobs.

These projects provide an important boost to make our region more vibrant and competitive.

They will deliver substantial benefits well into the future.



**INCREASING CAPACITY:** *The Cunnigar grain rail terminal near Harden.*

## NSRF delivering the infrastructure we need:

**\$1.51 million** for expansion of Central West Livestock Exchange at Forbes.

**\$1.2 million** for construction of Hillsaid Farm multi-purpose facility at Wagga Wagga by Kurrajong Waratah.

**\$250,000** for upgrade of grain rail terminal at Cunnigar near Harden.

# Infrastructure investment in Bland and Hilltops



**ON THE GROUND:** With Weethalle Recreation Ground Committee President Mark Booker and Secretary-Treasurer Lynette Potter.

**FROM Bland Shire in the west to the Hilltops Region in the east, we've delivered significant investments in our regions to make them even better places.**

Some of the funding Bland Shire has received includes a \$39,450 investment for CCTV in West Wyalong and the \$1 million Drought Communities Programme funding, which is being used in part to fund a multipurpose shed and upgrade public toilets near the Weethalle silo artwork.

Young has received funding to improve roads, including the Gordon and Wombat streets intersection, widening McHenrys Creek Bridge and Burrangong Creek Bridge duplication.

Young Child Care Centre received funding to install solar panels and upgrade its kitchen and Monteagle will be receiving a new Mobile Base Station.

## SUPPORTING THE GREAT WORK OF MEN'S SHED

**IT IS a privilege to support the great work men's sheds are doing for their communities and members right throughout the Riverina and Central West.**

Men's sheds are a popular way for older men to stay connected to their community – whether it is through a building project, a first aid workshop or a transition to retirement centre.

They provide local men with the opportunity to connect with each other and avoid social isolation in a safe, friendly environment.

Grants through the National Shed Development Program and Stronger Communities Programme are being used to buy tools and other equipment and to make building improvements which allow men's shed members to contribute to their towns and support one another.

## VOLUNTEERS ARE OUR LIFEblood

**WE all know the fantastic work volunteers perform in our communities.**

Simply put: where would we be without them?

Volunteers play a critical role in helping shape Australia and building stronger and more resilient communities.

So they are deserving of the hundreds of thousands of dollars delivered over recent years to keep their invaluable work going.

This year alone 40 Riverina and Central West volunteer groups are to receive a total of \$144,127 through the Volunteer Grants scheme to support their great work.

The grants give a much-needed financial boost to voluntary bodies from sporting and service clubs, educational and social organisations to advocacy and cultural groups.

These grants have a significant impact on the ability of volunteer groups to be able to undertake the priceless work they do on our behalf.

## Backing our volunteers:

**\$3,550 for Forbes Cancer Patients Assistance Society.**

**\$5,000 for Cootamundra Meals on Wheels Service Inc.**

**\$3,289 for Lions Club of Lockhart.**

**\$3,186 for Naradhan Rural Fire Brigade.**

**\$5,000 for Junee Rhythm n Rail Inc.**

**\$3,600 for Australian Breastfeeding Association Wagga.**

## Keeping men's sheds at work:

**The Rock Men's Shed - \$2,000**

**South City Men's Shed - \$4,585**

**Harden Men's Shed - \$2,500**

**Ariah Park Men's Shed - \$2,800**

**Ardlethan Men's Shed Inc - \$7,500**

**Gundagai Men's Shed - \$6,500**

**Coolamon Men's Shed - \$1,172**

**Wagga Wagga Men's Shed - \$3,750**

**Parkes Men's Shed - \$2,500**

**Forbes Men's Shed - \$6,500**

**Cowra Men's Shed - \$2,500**

**Temora Shed 4 Men - \$7,000**

# \$1M PLUS BOOST FOR DISABILITY SERVICE PROVIDERS IN REGION

**MORE than \$1 million was granted to two Riverina disability service providers in 2018 to deliver programs which make the region more inclusive for people with a disability.**

Eastern Riverina Arts received \$588,280 over two years to deliver its PLATFORM project and Kurrajong Waratah was granted \$462,654, also over two years, for its Connect Program.

PLATFORM was launched recently at the Wagga Wagga Beach and saw Eastern Riverina Arts collaborate with Information on Disability Education and Awareness Services (IDEAS) to convert a shipping

container into a portable purpose built space for the benefit of artists with a disability.

The Connect program is a peer support initiative which fosters social inclusion by connecting adolescents with an intellectual disability with other youngsters who do not have an intellectual disability.

Both projects are funded through the National Disability Insurance Agency's Information, Linkages and Capacity Building Program.

They are just two practical examples of what the Liberal and Nationals' Government is achieving through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).



**NDIS SERVICES:** Live Better, which opened a new Wagga office in 2018, is a NDIS provider doing great work for its clients.

# KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE

**OUR communities remain safe due to more than half a million dollars for five councils to install or upgrade closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras in selected areas over the past three years.**

Only safe communities can be strong and prosperous and the best way to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour is to prevent it from happening.

The Safer Communities Fund has delivered 17 new CCTV cameras and upgraded 16 analogue cameras in Parkes, as well as nine solar security lights and removable bollards.

Temora, Bland, Forbes and Weddin Shire Councils have also boosted safety through CCTV cameras.

Riverina and Central West communities are safe and friendly, but the Liberal and Nationals' Government is working with Councils to make sure the streets are safer.

## Looking out for you:

**\$207,792** for Weddin Shire in February 2019.

**\$226,306** for Parkes Shire Council in June 2018.

**\$39,450** for Bland Shire in June 2018.

**\$40,970** for Temora Shire in December 2016.

**\$13,600** for Forbes Shire in December 2016.



**UPGRADE:** Unveiling plans for the Parkes main street upgrade and Cooke Park multi-purpose centre with Mayor Ken Keith OAM.

# Spending in our main streets

**MORE than \$6.8 million has or is being spent on four main street upgrades to make them more attractive for shoppers and stimulate local economies.**

And a great deal of the construction work is going to local tradies and suppliers, creating many jobs.

Through the Building Better Regions Fund we have delivered \$4.2 million for Parkes' main street upgrade and Cooke Park multipurpose centre, \$870,000 for a new commercial precinct at Forbes and \$829,619 to upgrade the footpath along Kendal Street between Brisbane and Lachlan streets in Cowra. The National Stronger Regions Fund delivered \$915,490 to upgrade Gundagai's Sheridan Street, including new street lighting and furniture, artworks and landscaping.

Main streets are the beating hearts of our Riverina and Central West economies and so investing in them keeps money pumping through the towns.

# Snapshot of funding across the Riverina and Central West

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| ■ Energising Enterprise Program                       | ■ Black Spot Programme                            | ■ Aged Care Regional, Rural and Remote Infrastructure Grant Scheme |
| ■ Saluting Their Service Commemorations Programme     | ■ Building Better Regions Fund                    | ■ Regional Development Australia Fund                              |
| ■ National Stronger Regions Fund                      | ■ National Suicide Prevention Trial               | ■ Community Led Grants   |
| ■ Drought Communities Programme                       | ■ Community Development Grants Programme          | ■ Other Government Funding   |
| ■ Stronger Communities Programme                      | ■ Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Programme | ■ Stronger Rural Health Strategy                                   |
| ■ Information, Linkages and Capacity Building Program | ■ Armistice Centenary Grants Program              | ■ Veteran and Community Grants Programme                           |
| ■ Mobile Black Spot Programme                         | ■ Incubator Support Initiative                    | ■ Expansion of Medicare-eligible magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)  |
| ■ Community Sport Infrastructure Programme            | ■ Volunteer Grants                                | ■ Roads to Recovery  |
| ■ Aged Care Approvals Round                           | ■ National Shed Development Programme             | ■ Melbourne to Brisbane Inland Rail Link                           |
| ■ Bridges Renewal Programme                           | ■ Safer Communities Fund                          |  |
|   | ■ Capital Grants Programme                        |  |



**In the Defence White Paper Wagga Wagga was earmarked for \$960 million for vital infrastructure upgrades for the Army Recruit Training Centre at Kapooka and Royal Australian Air Force Base at Forest Hill.**



# BACKING BUSINESS ALL THE WAY

**PUTTING more money in the hands of small business owners through cutting tax rates to their lowest levels since 1940 has created more jobs and opportunities for our school leavers.**

Rates have fallen from 30 per cent to 27.5 per cent and a further cut to 25 per cent is locked in for 2021-22.

As Minister for Small Business when the cuts began, it was wonderful to see how



**GOOD NEWS:** *With Dianna Somerville of The Bridge Hub announcing the \$500,000 grant through the Incubator Support Initiative.*

they and the instant asset write-off have boosted business confidence in rural and regional areas.

Our local businesses are benefitting also from Federal Government investment in their innovation and initiative, such as a \$566,715 grant for Wagga Wagga-based Dr Mark's Hygiene through the Entrepreneurs' Programme and \$500,000 for agrifood tech innovation hub, Bridge Hub.

## Investing in business development:

**\$25,000** for Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council for the development of an economic development strategy.

**\$8,525** for retail training to improve best practice visual merchandising skills through the Harden Regional Development Corporation.

**\$25,000** for targeted business marketing training to maximise sales and attract customers in Weddin Shire.

## Making our communities stronger



**LEVEL COURTS:** *With Nola Scott on the Wagga Wagga Croquet Club courts which were laser levelled with the help of a Stronger Communities Programme grant.*

**FOUR** rounds of the Stronger Communities Programme have delivered about \$600,000 to Riverina and Central West organisations for projects which enrich their towns and villages.

Each round has provided grants of up to \$20,000 to organisations such as men's sheds, childcare centres, sporting clubs and aged care hostels for small infrastructure projects.

The funding has often allowed wish list projects to become reality, such as \$10,000 for an artificial cricket pitch at Grenfell, \$5,546 towards a clubhouse and fencing at Coolamon's Redgrave Tennis Club and \$9,900 for sun protection and outdoor equipment for the Yalbillinga Boori Day Care Centre at Cowra.

All the organisations which have received grants are doing great work and deserve support for projects which will make a real difference to their communities.

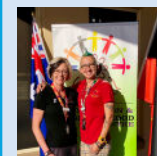
## \$1M FUNDING TO HELP COWRA CENTRE CLOSE GAP

**COWRA** Information and Neighbourhood Centre has been granted \$978,054 to help close the gap in disadvantage between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians living in the Central West.

The Liberals and Nationals have committed more than \$5 billion through to 2021-22 for grants through the Indigenous Advancement Strategy, which delivers programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Centre's Maldanha Wambinya project provides local Indigenous residents links to a range of services to reduce issues such as drug abuse and family violence and increase attendance levels at schools and workplaces.

Centre Manager Fran Stead was delighted to receive the news and said the money would make a real difference for local Indigenous communities in the Central West.



This investment in the local community will build on the great work the Centre has been doing.

**COMMUNITY-MINDED:** *Cowra Information and Neighbourhood Centre manager Fran Stead with youth worker Hellen Horton.*

## Strengthening our communities:

**\$3,643** to Wagga Wagga Croquet Club to laser level courts.

**\$6,124** to Young Child Care Centre Inc. for solar panels.

**\$15,000** to Lockhart Shire Council for outdoor fitness stations at The Rock.

**\$8,890** to Trundle Village Progress Association Inc. to complete new SES shed.

**\$18,000** to Bland Shire Council for a local history walk.

# Defence bases secured for generations to come

**WHEN the Defence White Paper was handed down in 2016 with nearly \$1 billion for future investment in the Army Recruit Training Centre at Kapooka and RAAF Base Wagga it secured their future for decades to come.**

Defence is one of the pillars of the Riverina's economy and the White Paper will, year by year, progressively inject more and more funding which will create jobs for local businesses and tradies and improve facilities for our hard-working Australian Defence Force personnel to 2035-36.

## Defence white paper integrated investment program:

**\$440 million investment in RAAF Base Wagga to 2036.**

**\$520 million investment in Army Recruit Training Centre to 2036.**

Already, more than \$31 million has or is being spent at the two bases since 2015, including \$24 million for a Defence Satellite Ground Station at Kapooka and \$7.5 million to upgrade electricity infrastructure at RAAF Base Wagga.

Just how important it was to secure the bases is evident in the money they pump into the local economy every year, including nearly \$67 million in military and civilian employee wages over the past year.

There are some 2018 military and civilian employees at the bases.

The Defence Housing Authority manages 286 properties in Wagga Wagga which

house Australian Defence Force personnel.

This provides invaluable leasing income for the owners of the properties.

ADF families make a valuable contribution to our identity as a community and they are deserving of all the support we can give.

The Liberal and Nationals' Government's backing for ADF families delivered a combined \$48,500 last year to support the work of Defence community organisations Kapooka Neighbourhood House and RAAF, Army, Navy Community House (RANCH) as part of a \$1.4 million package under the Family Support Funding Program.



**INVESTING IN DEFENCE:** The first sod was turned last September for the \$24 million Defence satellite ground station at Kapooka.

## Lest We Forget

**HONOURING those who have served Australia in the military forces since even before our great nation was federated is a task undertaken wonderfully and selflessly by many organisations right across the Riverina and Central West.**

Whether it is restoring honour boards, erecting flag poles at cenotaphs, building memorabilia display cabinets or conducting ANZAC Day services, the voluntary work is inspiring and worthy of support.

We delivered nearly \$50,000 across the electorate over the past 12 months for a mixture of public celebrations and restorations of war memorials to commemorate the centenary of World War I's Armistice Day on 11 November 2018.

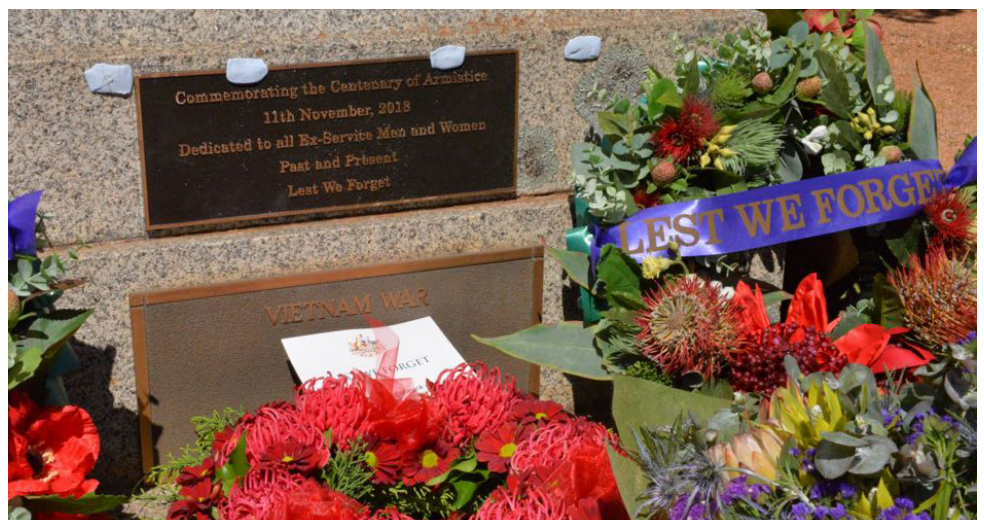
In other areas of funding, Ungarie's RSL Sub-Branch received \$1,391 to install new carpet in its extended meeting and memorabilia display room, while the stories of Murringo men who gave up their youth to serve in World War I have been immortalised in print following a \$3,000 grant to the Murringo Community Association.

## Honouring our Veterans:

**\$10,111 to upgrade the Parkes Cenotaph and Vietnam War Memorial.**

**\$1,200 to install a replica honour board at the Garema Public Hall.**

**\$1,754 for The Rock RSL Sub-Branch to install three memorabilia interpretive panels.**



**LEST WE FORGET:** Barmedman was one of the Riverina and Central West communities which commemorated the Centenary of Armistice with the help of a Government grant.

# Supporting regional communities through drought

**COMING from a farming family, I understand the challenges facing rural communities which is why I work so hard to deliver the best outcomes for the Riverina and Central West.**

We are committed to building more water infrastructure under the \$1.3 billion National Water Infrastructure Development Fund to enhance water security and support regional economic growth.

This is part of almost \$7 billion that the Liberals and Nationals have committed to help communities get through this insidious drought.

But it is not just about big ticket items. The Tackling Tough Times Together program is delivering grants across the Riverina and Central West, including Bogan Gate (\$11,635), Cowra (\$55,132), Forbes (\$2,983), Trundle (\$11,200) and Weethalle (\$15,500) to help lift the spirits of those communities.

I have fought to secure Drought Communities Programme funding for Shires in the Riverina and Central West so they can deliver projects to help drive the local economy. The Government will continue to monitor the situation as the drought continues and I will fight for our fair share.

**I stress to those who are struggling, do not self-assess – please get in touch if you need help.**



**DISCUSSING DROUGHT:** With Weddin Shire Council Mayor Mark Liebich and Cowra Shire Council Mayor Bill West at Grenfell.

## We're here for families:

**Drought Communities Programme: \$1 million** each for Parkes, Forbes, Bland, Weddin and Cowra Local Government Areas.

**Drought Community Support Initiative: Up to \$3,000** per eligible drought-affected household in areas covered under the Drought Communities Programme.

**Tackling Tough Times Together: \$15 million** to support community-based activities to relieve stressors and to help build resilience in drought-affected communities.

**Farm Household Allowance: The claim form has been simplified** and more Rural Financial Counsellors have been deployed to assist farmers. The farm assets test has been increased to **\$5 million** until 30 June 2019.

# Postcode no barrier to a good education

## Investing in our future:

**\$391,747** for Trinity Catholic Primary School at Harden-Murrumburrah.

**\$624,454** for St Anne's Central School at Temora.

**\$478,899** for Sacred Heart Primary School in Wagga.

**\$300,000** for Eloura Special School at Cootamundra.

**\$914,304** for Holy Trinity Primary School in Wagga.

**\$1.45 million** for Wagga Wagga Christian College.

**RECORD** funding for schools and giving our students the facilities they need are ensuring postcodes do not limit the potential of our young people.

As part of this record commitment, schools in NSW will receive an extra \$11.6 billion, including about 130 schools throughout the Riverina and Central West.

The 2018 Budget also delivered \$53.9 million to allow more students to qualify for Youth Allowance or receive a higher rate of payment.

The Government's Capital Grants Program has delivered more than \$5.6 million to schools in the electorate for vital school upgrades over the past three years.

There is nothing more important than a good education and the Liberal and Nationals' Government is committed to providing the infrastructure to help students reach their potential.



**TOP MARKS:** With long-time Riverina educator and recently retired Wagga Wagga Christian College principal Hugh MacCallum (left) and school Business Manager Nicholas Bewick after announcing one of two grants for the school.

# REGIONS TO REAP REWARDS FROM INLAND RAIL



**UNLOCKING POTENTIAL:** *The rail bridge over the Lachlan River at Forbes.*

**IT IS a transformational project which will give rural and regional Australia a significant economic shot in the arm.**

The Liberals and Nationals have invested more than \$9.3 billion towards the 1,700km Melbourne-to-Brisbane Inland Rail, which will run from the north of the electorate to the south.

In February, the final load of the more than 14,000 tonnes of Australian steel was delivered for the Parkes-to-Narromine section of the track

Make no mistake; this ambitious project is already creating many local jobs and investment opportunities throughout the Riverina and Central West.

This investment is about more than building a freight rail line – it is about investing in regional communities and building a nation that can meet the challenges of the next century and beyond.

It is fitting that strong Australian steel will lay the foundation of our future freight network and set us on the track to unlocking the employment, community and industry benefits that Inland Rail provides.

## Building a better regional road network

**FROM building bridges to making busy intersections safer, I have fought to secure important funding to make sure drivers in the Riverina and Central West get home sooner and safer.**

The Blackspot, Bridges Renewal and Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity programs have delivered more than 40 projects since the Nationals have been in Government.

We have funded almost \$5 million for a new Eunony Bridge and \$27.5 million for the state-of-the-art Kapooka Bridge along with smaller but significant projects including the upgrade of the Kincaid and Beckwith Streets intersection in Wagga Wagga to the widening of The Bogan Way and sealing the Middle Trundle Road near Parkes.

The Federal Government's contribution to seal Dunns Road in Wagga Wagga is still on the table and we are working with the Council to get it done.



**ON THE ROAD:** *Inspecting the work on the widening The Bogan Way with (from left) Cr Barbara Newton is Jason Bliss, Civil Construction team, Parkes Shire Council, Parkes Deputy Mayor Barbara Newton, recently retired New South Wales Parliamentary Secretary for Natural Resources and Western NSW Rick Colless MLC and Steven Campbell, Director of Planning, Parkes Shire Council.*

## Some of the projects delivered:

**\$952,343** for the construction of decoupling bays and a heavy vehicle rest area on Milvale Road at Young.

**\$800,000** towards upgrading a road linking the busy grain handling facilities at Wirrinya, south-west of Parkes, to the Newell Highway.

**\$4,672,537** towards the replacement of Bundarbo Bridge at Jugiong.

**\$4.9 million** for an upgrade of the Eunony Bridge at Wagga Wagga.

**\$2.5 million** towards making Wagga Wagga's Dunns Road safer.

# Budget delivers a strong

*Delivering for the Riverina & Central West*

## Tax relief for hard working Australians

- ✓ Immediate tax relief for low and middle income earners of up to **\$1,080** for singles and **\$2,160** for dual income families.
- ✓ Increasing the instant asset write-off threshold to **\$30,000** – up from **\$25,000** – and expanded to businesses with a turnover of up to **\$50 million**. About 18,000 Riverina businesses will benefit.
- ✓ **Lowering the company tax rate** for small and medium-sized business further to 25 per cent by 2021-22.

## Higher quality care

- ✓ **\$448.5 million** to improve continuity of primary care and convenience for patients.
- ✓ **\$461 million** for a national strategy to prevent suicide and promote mental wellbeing.
- ✓ **\$282.4 million** for 10,000 more Home Care packages to allow more people to receive care sooner.
- ✓ **\$62.2 million** for the National Rural Generalist Pathway to deliver more rural generalist doctors.

## Regional connectivity

- ✓ **\$272.2 million** through the Regional Growth Fund for local infrastructure projects which will unlock economic opportunities.
- ✓ **\$160 million** for Rounds 5 and 6 of the Mobile Black Spot Program.
- ✓ **\$60 million** for a new Regional Connectivity Program to improve mobile and broadband services across regional and remote Australia.
- ✓ **\$43.7 million** to guarantee funding for Australia's public broadcasters, the ABC and SBS, and provide new resources outside major city centres.

## Climate solutions

- ✓ Around **\$365 million** for one-off Energy Assistance Payments to age and disability support pensioners, recipients of Carer Payment, Parenting Payment, veterans and their dependents receiving eligible payments from the Department of Veterans' Affairs and others receiving working age benefits, including Newstart and Youth Allowance - **\$75** for singles and **\$125** for couples.
- ✓ **\$50.4 million** to support feasibility studies into the development of new microgrids which would harness distributed generation to provide secure, reliable and affordable power to regional and remote communities.
- ✓ **\$1 million** for stage one of the Lockhart Renewable Energy Project.
- ✓ **\$61.2 million** for a new Energy Efficient Communities Program – grants for businesses and community organisations to improve energy consumption reduction and other environmental issues.
- ✓ **\$100 million** for a new Environmental Restoration Fund to support major environmental projects.
- ✓ **\$28.3 million** for a new Communities Environment Program, providing \$150,000 to each electorate for community led projects.

## Investing in education

- ✓ A record **\$21.4 billion** will be provided for State schools, Catholic Schools and Independent schools for the 2020 school year – an increase in funding of **\$8.5 billion** since 2013.
- ✓ **\$30.2 million** for a Local School Community Fund which will allow school communities to identify their own priorities, such as upgrades to classrooms, play equipment and other school amenities.
- ✓ **\$71.6 million** to improve outcomes for very remote students by encouraging teachers to teach and stay longer in their schools through remitting their HELP debt incurred for recognised teaching qualifications of an estimated 3,100 graduate students who teach for a minimum four years in very remote schools.
- ✓ **\$93.7 million** for the new Destination Australia program which will provide up to 4,720 scholarships of up to **\$15,000** per year for domestic and international students to study at a regional university or vocational education provider.

# Stronger economy for all

**THE Liberal and Nationals' Government** is committed to supporting the growth of our regional economies and to ensuring regional communities are safe, prosperous and sustainable into the future.

## Building our regions

✓ **\$841.6 million** for the Building Better Regions Fund from 2017-18 to 2022-23, including an additional **\$200 million** for a fifth round. This fund has delivered more than **\$20 million** for projects in the Riverina and Central West over the first three rounds.

✓ Another **\$22.65 million** for a fourth round of the Stronger Communities Programme in 2019-20. This program has delivered about **\$600,000** to small Riverina and Central West community organisations for local infrastructure and facilities over the first four rounds.



**INFRASTRUCTURE BUDGET:** *More roads and bridges, just like Black's Bridge near Greenethorpe, will be built through our \$100 billion infrastructure plan.*

## Supporting our agricultural sector

✓ Providing Drought support to communities and farmers with **\$3.9 billion** to the Future Drought Fund, **\$50 million** to the On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme.

✓ **\$3.9 billion** for a new Emergency Response Fund to provide an additional sustainable source of funding for recovery from natural disasters.

✓ **\$96 million** to date for more than 250 community projects to revitalise local economies.

✓ **\$34 million** for a new Agriculture Biodiversity Stewardship Program to help farmers boost on-farm agricultural practices to support biodiversity.

✓ **\$29.4 million** for our industries to access new export markets and capitalise on export opportunities.

✓ **\$29 million** for increased mental health and wellbeing support for farmers in hardship in drought-affected communities.

✓ **\$15.3 million** for a nationally co-ordinated approach to combat fruit fly.

✓ **\$8.7 million** to give our dairy farmers a fair go with a mandatory code of conduct for the dairy industry.

## Delivering infrastructure

✓ **\$400 million** for Newell Highway upgrades.

✓ **\$8 million** for Parkes to Sydney fast rail business case.

✓ A **25 per cent boost** in Roads to Recovery funding to the 12 Councils in the Riverina electorate, totalling **\$13,800,921**, including **\$2,050,700** for Wagga Wagga City Council, **\$985,552** for Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council, **\$1,770,968** for Hilltops Council, **\$1,849,827** for Bland Shire Council and **\$1,222,566** For Forbes Shire Council.

✓ **\$100 billion** infrastructure investment for critical road and rail projects to better connect our regions and improve safety.

✓ Increased funding to the Roads of Strategic Importance initiative to **\$4.5 billion** for key freight corridors.

✓ An additional **\$200 million** to fund safety works to reduce crashes and save lives through the Black Spot Program and an additional **\$100 million** for the Bridges Renewal Program.

✓ **\$100 million** for works at regional airports to provide greater access to safe and efficient air services.

✓ **\$3.3 billion** to build the water infrastructure of the future through the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund.

# Improved mobile phone coverage

**Making a call in the country should not be a luxury. This is why The Nationals are delivering on mobile phone towers across regional Australia.**

I have fought to secure 23 towers around the region since The Nationals came to Government but I know there is still more work to be done.

This is why the Liberals and Nationals have committed another \$160 million for two new funding rounds of the Mobile Black Spot Program.

We are delivering more than 1000 towers across Australia equating to more than \$760 million of new investment in mobile infrastructure.



**BETTER RECEPTION:** Wantabadgery has better mobile phone reception due to the Nationals delivering a phone tower in the area.

## Mobile phone infrastructure for region:

Bedgerabong	Murringo
Billimaria	Naradhan
Bumbaldry	Noonbinna
Cultowa	Old Wagga Road South
Darbys Falls	Temora West
Dirnaseer	Trungley Hall
Gooloogong	Ungarie
Jemalong	Wantabadgery
Koorawatha	Warroo
Ladysmith	Weethalle
Monteagle	Woodstock
Mount McDonald	

## Delivering for families:

More than **\$21 million** available through the Community Child Care Fund in regional and rural areas.

A family on **\$50,000** with two children under six in long day care three days a week at \$100 a day will be more than **\$3,000** a year better off.

A family on **\$80,000** in the same situation as above will be more than **\$8,000** a year better off.

**\$10,000** to install a new roof and verandah at the Shaw Street Children's Centre.

**\$8,840** to install a new kitchen at Young Child Care Centre.

## RELIEF FOR HARD-WORKING FAMILIES

**Only the Liberals and Nationals can provide the economic management to give more back to you – after all, it is your money.**

We delivered tax relief for hard-working families in last year's Budget and, in the recently handed down 2019-20 Budget, we have committed to putting even more money back into your pocket.

Local workers earning up to \$126,000 – which includes our local teachers, tradies and nurses – will get a tax cut.

Our new Child Care Subsidy is providing accessible, affordable child care. On average, regional and rural families who use child care will be more than \$1,300 better off per child per year.

Local aged care providers will benefit from another 206 places worth nearly \$14 million per year as well as significant

capital works funding throughout the Riverina and Central West.

For small and medium business owners, we have delivered the lowest tax rate since 1940 at 27.5 per cent, with a further cut to 25 per cent locked in for 2021-22.



**MOULDING MINDS:** With children at the Shaw Street Children's Centre. The centre received funding under the Stronger Communities Programme to install a new roof and verandah.

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