



# Talking Tablelands

with Adam Marshall MP

your Member for Northern Tablelands  
Minister for Tourism and Major Events  
Assistant Minister for Skills



## Inverell hospital redevelopment in full swing



Looking over plans of the hospital redevelopment which is progressing quickly and right on schedule.

THREE months after turning the first sod of soil on the historic redevelopment of Inverell District Hospital, I was back onsite late last month, inspecting construction progress on the first stage of this massive **\$60 million** project.

I'm thrilled to see work progressing

so quickly. Everything is on schedule and the work crew is expecting to be slightly ahead on the project by Christmas, with the pouring of the first foundation concrete slab.

It's amazing that while we have a huge construction site right behind the

existing hospital, nothing has impacted the hospital's operations or patients, which is a credit to the planning staff and the construction crews.

I'm particularly pleased that to date 12 local businesses have been involved in the project, with more to

come on board once the new hospital building construction commences.

The State Government has also mandated that 20 per cent of all workers on the site be apprentices to up-skill our local young people.

**"This will ensure that as much of the \$60 million stays in Inverell, boosting the local economy."**

Stage One of the redevelopment includes a new and expanded emergency department, a new 38-bed inpatient unit including paediatric and maternity and birthing facilities, and general adult services, including palliative care, a new Medical Imaging or X-ray department and a new operating theatre, the first of two new theatres for the hospital.

Stage 2 is currently being designed, which involves gutting, refurbishing and repurposing the existing hospital building. I'll continue to keep the community updated.

## \$12.38 million pipeline to bring water security to Guyra

THE Guyra township's water woes will soon be a thing of the past with **\$12.38 million** secured from the NSW Government to construct a 15-kilometre water pipeline from Malpas Dam to Guyra.

This pipeline, and associated new water treatment infrastructure, will permanently drought-proof the Guyra community and ensure continued growth in the region.

Together with the local community, I've been lobbying for the pipeline's

construction for almost two years and now, with the funding secured, Armidale Regional Council can proceed with this critical water security project.

Guyra uses an average of 423 megalitres of water each year, with demand steadily increasing, which far exceeds the town's current storage capacity of 277 megalitres. The pipeline will expand that capacity to more than 740 megalitres, exceeding anticipated growth over the next 30 years.

This project will also mean the



Great celebrations at Malpas Dam as the big cheque secures Guyra's future water supply.

problems of discoloured, foul smelling water which residents in Guyra often endure will be resolved.

News of the funding has already

resulted in the Costa Group announcing a multi-million-dollar expansion of the Guyra tomato farm. Council will shortly call for tenders to construct the pipeline.

## Adam Marshall MP

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# NSW drought relief package

## \$1 billion to help farmers in need

THE drought continues to bite hard and although some in the region have benefited from a few decent storms in the past month or so, we are a long way from being out of the woods and summer is now upon us.

In August I was relieved when, after some badgering by me on behalf of the community, the state government committed an additional \$500 million to the *Emergency Drought Relief Package* taking its total drought support to more than \$1 billion.

This current drought is unprecedented and I'm relieved that the NSW Government acted to provide a tangible and accessible lifeline for farmers.

The three major elements of the \$500 million *Emergency Drought Relief Package* are:

- Approximately \$190 million for Drought Transport Subsidies;
- Approximately \$100 million for cutting the cost of farming fees and charges – by waiving Local Land Services rates, waiving fixed water charges in rural and regional areas, and waiving class one agricultural vehicle registration costs, among other initiatives; and
- \$150 million to bolster the Farm Innovation Fund (FIF) infrastructure program;

The package also includes funding for:

- Counselling and mental health;
- Critical services in regional communities including transporting water and drought related road upgrades and repairs; and
- Animal welfare and stock disposal.

## Free heavy vehicle rego for farmers

AS a further emergency drought measure, new registration rebates have been applied from 1 November to all renewals for the next two years, from 1 July 2018 until 30 June 2020 and for producers who register their vehicles between 1 July and 1 November this year, the amount will be refunded.

The NSW Government will also provide partial refunds on previous heavy vehicles registration charges going back over three years, saving primary producers an average of \$2,094 each.

Farmers will also receive free registration over the next two years for their heavy vehicles. Governments don't always have the answers but when we see a good solution we have a responsibility to act and that is exactly what we have done here. The changes will come into effect from 1 November 2018.

## Off-farm assets limit lifted

I WAS also very pleased with the government's recent decision to lift the limit on off-farm assets from \$1 million to \$5 million which means more farmers will now be eligible to access drought assistance.

This change acknowledges the efforts of farmers who have diversified their assets, but understandably still need help during these tough times.

# \$3.5 million for vital Boomi to Mungindi freight route

ANOTHER big project is the **\$3.5 million** allocated to seal the first 14 kilometre section of the vital freight route from Mungindi to Boomi, Carrigan Road.

The 56-kilometre road, otherwise known as Main Road 507, is a significant freight route for local producers and the ongoing costs associated with it being unsealed will no longer be a headache for locals and Moree Plains Shire Council.

Each year up to \$30 million of agricultural produce, on average, is transported off properties along Carrigan Road and out to market so I'm thrilled this money has been announced as part of the NSW Budget. One business alone on this road can account for almost 2,000 truck movements annually.

Another lost count at 500, so this road is crucial and seeing it sealed has been a goal of both mine and Moree Plains Shire Council.

I'll keep working to secure the remaining funds to seal the whole road.



For close to 25 years, local farmers and Moree Plains Shire Council have been pushing to have Carrigan Road sealed.

# New Moree renal unit open and treating patients



Clinicians, hospital staff and patients joined me at the official opening of the new renal dialysis unit at the Moree Hospital.

A FEW weeks ago I had the great pleasure of joining Councillors, hospital staff, patients and members of the

local Renal Support Group to officially open the new **\$2 million** renal dialysis unit at the Moree Hospital.

The unit heralds a new era for renal treatment in Moree and offers a more spacious and comfortable area for both patients and hospital staff.

The old unit was cramped and at capacity which forced many patients to seek treatment in other centres or even buy home dialysis equipment. For many patients with end-stage chronic kidney disease, home treatment just isn't an option either, and for others, the costs associated with going out of town for treatment are prohibitive and problematic.

The new unit was completed a month ahead of schedule and started treating its first patients in late November. It has eight chairs, three more than the old unit, including an isolation room for patients at risk of infection.

## Petition launched for \$20 million Glen Innes Hospital refurb

IT WAS great to have so many vocal locals join me in Glen Innes recently to launch a petition aimed at driving a community campaign to secure a **\$20 million** from the State Government to refurbish for Glen Innes District Hospital.

Glen Innes desperately needs a refurbishment and by showing we've got widespread community support for this project, we've got more political muscle to achieve that.

The proposed upgrade will include the complete removal of the old nurse's quarters, which are derelict and an eyesore, and then to upgrade the current hospital to bring it in line with the other modern hospitals.



Members and supporters of the Glen Innes Hospital Auxiliary were the first to put their names on the petition.

I was delighted to secure the very first signature on the petition from Jan Sharman OAM, who is a tireless worker for the community, especially in working to improve health services in Glen Innes.

Locals can sign the petition at the Glen Innes Severn Council Chambers.

# Working for all Northern

## Education

- ✓ **\$20,000** to **Anarla Moran** from **Minimbah Preschool** for further childhood studies at the UNE.
- ✓ **\$300,000** to turbocharge regional innovation at the **University of New England Smart Region Incubator (SRI)**.
- ✓ **\$200,000** to **Gwydir Shire Council** to relocate the Bingara library.



- ✓ **\$15,000** to **Armidale Drummond Park Preschool** to complete a garden makeover.
- ✓ **\$14,950** to **Warialda Preschool** to enhance the quality of its learning spaces.



- ✓ **\$19,500** to **Armidale St Peter's Preschool** to increase the quality of its service and the education environment.

## Health and welfare

- ✓ **\$313,480** to **Moree Plains Shire Council** to assist local residents to flood-proof their homes.
- ✓ **\$2,995** for **Armidale Men's Shed** to purchase a defibrillator (AED).
- ✓ **\$369,403** to **Moree Plains Shire Council** to deliver social services in the shire.
- ✓ **\$100,000** to **Back Track Youth Works** for training and mentoring.



- ✓ **\$250,000** to **Armidale Hospital** for new and improved play areas.
- ✓ **\$288,700** to help support preschools and their families affected by the drought.

- ✓ **\$2,170** to **Armidale United Hospital Auxiliary** to purchase a new coffee machine.



- ✓ **\$5,000** to **Guyra's Local Health Committee** to host a men's health night.

## Tourism

- ✓ **\$20,000** to **Glen Innes** for the **Outlander Fan Festival** to help locals and tourists kick up the tartan celebrations.



- ✓ **\$20,000** for the installation of 28 information signs at **Cranky Rock site on Reedy Creek**.
- ✓ **\$2,000** to **Moree on a Plate** to purchase a large marquee for the annual festival.



- ✓ **\$115,000** to upgrade the kitchen and dining room facilities at the **Warialda Showground**.
- ✓ **\$400,000** to upgrade and extend **Guyra's Neighbourhood Centre**, the Hub.

## Roads

- ✓ **\$100,000** to **Moree Plains Shire Council** for 12 bridges to undertake level 3 inspections.
- ✓ **\$600,000** to **Armidale Regional Council** to upgrade Rockvale Road.
- ✓ **\$95,000** to **Armidale Regional Council** to undertake level 3 Bridge inspections.
- ✓ **\$260,000** to **Uralla Shire Council** for the replacement of Mehi Creek Bridge.



- ✓ **\$112,025** to **Inverell Shire Council** to undertake higher mass limit assessments on the Bruxner Highway.
- ✓ **\$705,000** to **Uralla Shire Council** for Abington Creek Bridge.
- ✓ **\$10 million** to **Armidale Regional Council** and **Uralla Shire Council** for a road safety upgrade on the New England Highway.

## Regional Cultural Fund

- ✓ **\$846,000** to **Armidale Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place** to complete the gallery and function centre.
- ✓ **\$16,196** to **Uralla Shire Council** to establish an Aboriginal cultural display.



- ✓ **\$60,000** to upgrade the **Guyra Historical Museum**.

## Stronger Country Communities Fund

- ✓ **\$140,715** to **Moree Plains Shire Council** to improve the Mungindi pool facility and resurface the Moree netball courts.
- ✓ **\$459,182** for upgrade to **Guyra's Mother of Ducks Lagoon and Nature Reserve**.
- ✓ **\$998,039** to expand and upgrade the **Armidale gymnastic Centre**.



- ✓ **\$147,780** to **New England Mountain Bikers Inc.** for the construction of five kilometres of new trails at the mountain bike track.

# Tablelands' communities

- ✓ **\$1,881,606** to **Lake Inverell** for the upgrade of lake facilities and new Criterium track.
- ✓ **\$235,964** to **Inverell Tennis Club** to upgrade the Clubhouse.



- ✓ **\$8,243** to **Glen Innes Pistol Club** to replace a retaining wall to comply with safety standards.
- ✓ **\$5,000** to **Guyra Show Society** to assist with the 2019 Show.



- ✓ **\$4.2 million** for **Glen Innes Regional Netball Complex**.
- ✓ **\$1.5 million** to upgrade the **Ron Harborne Sporting Complex** in Moree.
- ✓ **\$50,000** to upgrade the **Inverell Skate Park**.



- ✓ **\$3,643** to **Armidale Outlaws Baseball Club** to install seating.
- ✓ **\$247,471** to the **Uralla Shire Council** to upgrade the town pool.
- ✓ **\$350,000** for the **Inverell Sports Complex**.
- ✓ **\$512,443** toward the infrastructure upgrades at the **Wilson Park Sporting Complex** in Glen Innes.
- ✓ **\$56,530** to upgrade the **Glen Innes tennis courts**.
- ✓ **\$99,700** for **Armidale** to build a new adventure playground.
- ✓ **\$80,614** for improvement to **Moran Oval**, Armidale.
- ✓ **\$247,292** for further upgrades for **Uralla Sports Complex**.

- ✓ **\$163,233** to **Moree Men's Shed** to build a new shed in a better location.
- ✓ **\$164,296** for major upgrades at the **Moree PCYC**.
- ✓ **\$1,093,196** to build a new public **hydrotherapy pool** in **Armidale**.
- ✓ **\$220,000** to **Moree Plains Shire Council** to stretch the pathway network in Moree by another 1.4 kilometres.



- ✓ **\$99,000** to **Moree Youth Precinct** to redevelop the existing skate park.

## Sports

- ✓ **\$2,000,000** to upgrade the **Moree PCYC**.



- ✓ **\$134,000** to **Pallamallawa Sportsground Trust** to build new horse yards, stewards' office and seating.
- ✓ **\$30,400** to upgrade the power supply at **Moree Race Course**.
- ✓ **\$40,450** to **Uralla Showground** to relocate and upgrade overhead power lines.

## Environment

- ✓ **\$99,330** to **Glen Innes Natural Resources Advisory Committee (GLENRAC)** to plant 19,000 native trees and shrubs across the district.
- ✓ **\$15,000** to **Armidale Regional Council** to help residents deal with flying-fox camp at Black Gully, Armidale.

## Heritage

- ✓ **\$45,000** to **Holy Trinity Anglican Church** for roof repairs.



- ✓ **\$100,000** to renovate the **Inverell Convent**.
- ✓ **\$38,280** to **The Land of the Beardies Museum** for maintenance.
- ✓ **\$60,000** to upgrade the **Guyra Historical Museum**.



- ✓ **\$3,500** to **Inverell War Memorial** to give the front of memorial a facelift.

## Arts & Culture

- ✓ **\$95,000** to **Arts North West** for Aboriginal art across the region.



- ✓ **\$25,000** to **New England Conservatorium of Music (NECOM)** for a two-day composition conference in Armidale.

## Essential Services

- ✓ **\$10,000** to **Glen Innes Volunteer Rescue Association** to upgrade their emergency services.

# New Inverell Police Station locked in

A THREE-YEAR campaign for a new 24-hour Police Station in Inverell proved successful with the State Government allocating **\$8.52 million** for the knock down and rebuild of the dilapidated buildings on the existing site.

The new station will be designed and built with plenty of space to house additional police and modern technology to give our officers the resources and support they need to keep our community safe well into the future.

A huge thank you to the community, council and the local police for all their support and help with this

successful campaign. Together we have achieved a wonderful result.

There are 46 full-time police and staff currently crammed into the station, which was built in 1960, when Inverell was less than half the size it is today and had only 14 police working in town.

There's also a police boat and 13 vehicles that sit out in the open due to a lack of storage space onsite.

Armidale's new 24-hour police station was built in 2007, Moree's was built in 2013 and now I am delighted that it is Inverell's turn.



*A huge thank you to the Inverell community, council and the local police for all their support for this campaign.*



*Thank you to the hundreds of locals who supported the efforts to cancel the auction.*

## Not for sale: Former Armidale Courthouse taken off the market

THE Armidale community's push to keep the 158-year-old former Armidale Courthouse in public hands took a giant leap forward earlier this month with the proposed public auction of the iconic property cancelled.

I was delighted that after an urgent request, Attorney General Mark Speakman and Finance Minister Victor Dominello sided with me and the community and overruled the departmental bureaucrats.

This means the State Heritage Listing application, lodged by council, can now be assessed by the NSW Heritage Council. I have already been in contact with Heritage Minister Gabrielle Upton requesting that the assessment of the application be fast-tracked.

Now is the time for the oldest public building in Armidale, first constructed in 1860, to be properly recognised with NSW Heritage Listing and then transferred to Armidale Regional Council, on behalf of the community, for a peppercorn rate.

## Merry Christmas

MY staff and I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

The Moree and Armidale electorate offices will be closed from 5pm on Friday, 21 December and open again on Monday 7 January, 2019.

## Energy Switch to help save on energy bills

IN what will be a major shakeup for the electricity market, NSW households can now quickly change electricity deals with Service NSW's free Energy Switch service, potentially saving them up to \$1,000 a year on their bills.

There are a lot of government price comparison websites but this takes things to the next level. With the click of a mouse or a quick chat with

Service NSW, it allows people to change electricity providers and lock in a better deal.

Energy Switch uses a customer's latest e-bill to scan the entire retail electricity market, giving them a list of the cheapest three electricity plans available based on their individual usage profile.

To access Energy Switch visit [www.energyswitch.service.nsw.gov.au/](http://www.energyswitch.service.nsw.gov.au/)

## \$4.2 million for new Glen Innes indoor netball stadium

A NEW \$5.5 million netball stadium and four new courts to make up the Glen Innes Regional Netball Facility will shoot the complex and the sport into a new era of sporting excellence.

The stadium dream will become a reality with the NSW Government chipping in **\$4.22 million** towards the new complex and amenities that will meet national competition standards.

Glen Innes Severn Council will add \$1.28 million to the project that will see a new 2,125 square metre two-court indoor stadium with two outdoor additional adjoining courts that will make up a new netball facility in greater Wilson Park Sports Precinct.

The new regional complex will help to cater to the growing population and growing participation across



*Celebrating the funding news with Glen Innes Netball Association members.*

netball, as well as indoor sports such as basketball and futsal, which will be able to be played inside. The stadium will get spectator bench seating, a rock climbing wall, player and referee change rooms and toilets.

Congratulations to the Glen Innes Netball Association, which has been working hard on this project for a number of years. This is a huge project for Glen Innes.

## Moree's old Crown Lands Building handed over to the community



*NSW Deputy Premier John Barilaro was more than happy to help ensure the building remained in community hands.*

MOREE'S iconic former Crown Lands Building in Frome Street has been saved from auction and possible redevelopment and has instead been handed Moree Plains Shire Council, on behalf of the community, for the princely sum of \$1.

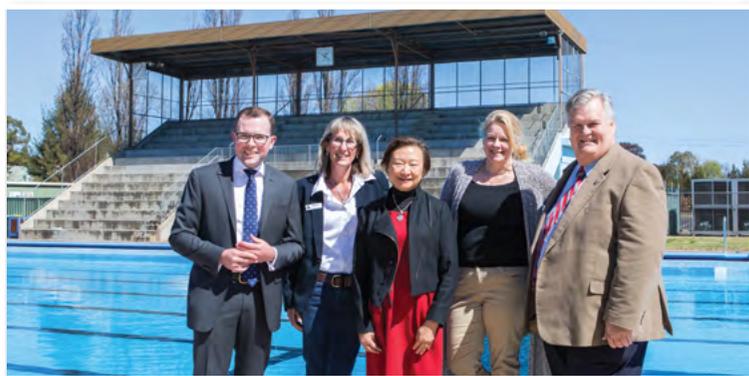
This is a wonderful result for Moree, ensuring this historical treasure remains in the community's hands.

Originally constructed in 1892, this building is unique in Moree and one of the few remaining examples of buildings of this type and era in our region.

The 120-year-old building had been vacant for almost two years, since the local Crown Lands staff moved into the State Government office building, about 200 metres away.

Usually, when properties like this are vacated and no government agencies have any use for them, they are put up for auction, but I was glad the Treasurer and Finance Minister agreed to my request and the \$1 price tag for council to take ownership of the property.

# Huge splash of cash for new Armidale hydro pool



The need for a new hydro-pool topped the list when Armidale Regional Council consulted with the community.

I WAS thrilled to announce a couple of months ago that the State Government has committed **\$1,093,196** to build a new hydrotherapy pool at Armidale's Monckton Aquatic Centre.

The woes of the hydrotherapy located at the Armidale hospital, have been ongoing for years. The ageing facility, originally built by the Armidale Lions Club, was saved last year thanks to the efforts of volunteers, community members, the local council and a fair bit of push-and-shove from me on behalf of all the stakeholders.

Securing a new location and a new pool has been on my priority list for a while now so the decision by Armidale Regional Council to apply for funding under the NSW Stronger Country Communities Fund helped pave the way for this solution.

The pool will be constructed next year and will be available all year round to locals and visitors.

## 2018-19 NSW Budget highlights for the Northern Tablelands:

A record-breaking budget allocation of almost **\$259 million** over the 12 months surpasses last year's record spend of \$220 million.

- **\$65 million** towards a new **1,500 student high school in Armidale**, Armidale Secondary College;
- **\$60 million** to fully fund both stages of the **Inverell District Hospital redevelopment**;
- **\$8.52 million** to build a new **24-hour Police Station in Inverell**;
- **New Service NSW Centre** to be built in **Moree**;
- **\$12.38 million** to construct the **Malpas Dam to Guyra water pipeline**;
- **\$5 million** to upgrade **Aboriginal Housing in Moree** and across the region;
- **\$2.1 million** to upgrade the **Glen Innes DPI Agricultural Research Station**;
- **\$2 million** to upgrade **Moree PCYC**;
- **\$1.66 million** to **upgrade social housing** across the region;
- **\$60 million** to fund road upgrades across the region, including:
  - **\$26.7 million** to commence construction of the Newell Highway heavy duty pavement upgrade between Mungle Back Creek and **Boggabilla**;
  - **\$10 million** for major safety improvements, including audio-tactile line marking and shoulder sealing, on New England Highway between **Uralla** and **Armidale**;
  - **\$1.28 million** for heavy duty pavement on Newell Highway, north of **Moree**;
  - **\$1.55 million** for pavement repair on Waterfall Way near **Wollomombi** and **Metz** (east of **Armidale**);
  - **\$3.5 million** to seal first section of Main Road 507 (Carrigan Road) between **Boomi** and **Mungindi**;
  - **\$4.62 million** for pavement repair on New England Highway at **Tutts Gully**, **University Farm**, **Guyra**, south of **Armidale** and **Stonehenge**, south of Glen Innes;
  - **\$743,000** for draining improvements on Gwydir Highway at Gibraltar Range, east of **Glen Innes**;
  - **\$950,000** for pavement repair on Gwydir Highway near **Inverell**;
  - **\$2.5 million** for Newell Highway overtaking lanes in **Moree Plains Shire**;

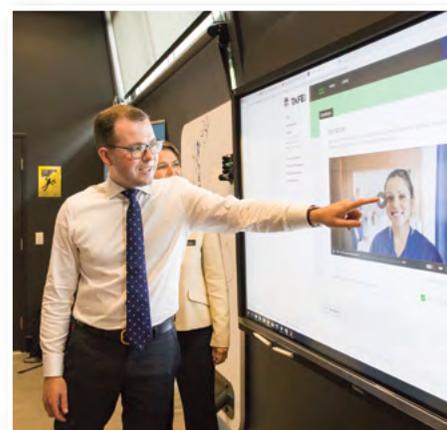
## Armidale proves its 'smarts' in world's digital training

ARMIDALE is leading the nation in the development of digital learning through the TAFE Digital Headquarters and learning Lab.

Home now to 52 new full-time jobs, the HQ has recently unveiled a new interactive online template being introduced to students in the Diploma of Nursing next year.

The TAFE Digital Learning Lab is an agile centre of best-practice innovation, focused on exploring the application of emerging technologies in education and industry, and developing industry-first training platforms.

Increasingly, we are using new technologies to give up and coming carers the opportunity to gain a taste of the practical skills needed in their profession, before entering the workplace.



Testing one of the new virtual reality worlds at the TAFE Digital in Armidale.

OSCA – a new clinical assessment tool – is a game-changer for training the next generation of nursing students, especially across rural and regional NSW. It incorporates live video, audio recordings and self-reflection tools to simulate real life scenarios in the clinical environment.

We are very fortunate to have TAFE Digital here and beat the cutting edge of learning innovation for Australia.

## Glasshouse upgrade for Glen Innes research station



It is encouraging to see the NSW Government continue to back our farmers by investing in the future of agriculture by funding this research.

I TOURED the Glen Innes Agricultural Research Station recently to see firsthand just how the **\$2.1 million** NSW Budget boost will help the centre extend glasshouse facilities for more advanced pasture research.

This is vitally important for our farmers and graziers to keep ahead of the global agricultural industry and it is critical that our northern research plays a big part in that overall R&D push.

The current glasshouses date back to the 1960s and while they can grow plants for basic experiments, there are no climatic control functions, so this will provide for a giant step in their research capability, and bolster research that takes account of changing climatic conditions.

They will be able to do temperature experiments into tropical pastures and the different environmental effects of those.

# Campaign mounted for new Moree Hospital



Moree Plains Shire Mayor Katrina Humphries with members of the local community brandishing petitions in front of Moree Hospital.

I WOULD like to thank the 4,000 or so people from Moree and surrounding communities who signed the petition to secure \$80 million from the NSW Government to fully redevelop Moree District Hospital.

I would also like to urge every member of the community, whether living in Moree or in smaller community across the district, to put pen to paper in

the next few weeks. When I mount a case on behalf of the community to the Health Minister and Treasurer, early next year to secure a new hospital, it makes an enormous difference to be able to show that everyone in the region Moree is right behind this project.

This approach was successful in Armidale, and again in Inverell for their \$60 million hospital redevelopment,

and I want to ensure we give ourselves the very best chance to make it three from three.

Petitions are available to be signed in most Moree businesses and the Moree Plains Shire Council and my electorate office in Balo Street. Copies of the petitions can be secured by contacting my office on 6752 5002.



Armidale Hospital staff joined me on a tour through the brand new intensive care and day surgery units.

## New intensive care & day surgery units open in Armidale

LAST month I toured through the brand new intensive care and day surgery units, marking the completion of the penultimate chapter of Armidale Hospital's \$60 million redevelopment.

The new units look amazing and are much more spacious, better designed for staff and patients and have more beds than the outdated areas they have replaced.

This is a wonderful culmination of work which started in March 2015, when funding for this critical redevelopment was announced.

Now the attention turns to the old emergency department, which will be transformed into the new and the new home for the improved physio department.

The full redevelopment included the construction of a new four-level hospital building, as well as major refurbishments and landscaping.

The new hospital is a testament to the professionalism and hard work of all the staff involved. We now have a wonderful health facility that we can all be very proud of and will last for decades.

## Keeping Place extensions to double gallery space

THE long-awaited expansion of the Armidale Cultural Centre and Keeping Place is well underway and is set to be completed by early next year.

This **\$846,000** project, funded by the NSW Government, will increase the Keeping Place's art exhibition space by two-thirds, boosting arts sales and visitor numbers.

The centre has been operating since 1988 and is one of only a few in NSW that has grown and thrived – even though it's been hamstrung by having only one gallery space to run exhibitions from.

The second gallery was originally part of the plan and the frame was built in 1999, but was never completed.

The project will also see a new off-street carpark constructed adjacent to the Keeping Place and a new entrance, which are all essential for older citizens and people with a disability.

It's a massive win for the centre and for the local Aboriginal community – but it's also an exciting development for the entire regional arts sector.



Celebrating the funding announcement in June with Armidale Regional Council councillors and Armidale Cultural Centre and Keeping Place staff and board members.

# Out and about in the electorate



Catching up with Pallamallawa Sportsground trustees to announce some funding to upgrade their grounds.



Inspecting progress with Patric Millar on the giant Sapphire Windfarm, between Glen Innes and Inverell.



New England Mountain Bike Club is looking forward to extending the Armidale UNE mountain bike track by over five kilometers.



Delivering good news to the volunteers and supporters of the historic Carinda House community centre in Warialda.



It's always a pleasure to visit the small schools in my electorate.



Catching up with the Moree Plains Shire work crew building the new footpath and cycleway network around the Mehi River.



An upgrade to the Inverell Skate Park will give local youngsters a better and safer place to play.



Rural Fire Service volunteers turned out in force to celebrate the official opening of the new \$3.4 million Northern Tablelands RFS Fire Control Centre in Glen Innes.