

# Talking Tablelands

with **Adam Marshall** MP  
your Member for Northern Tablelands



## Back down to work for the region

I WOULD like to thank the people of the Northern Tablelands electorate for their trust and confidence in me at the recent state election. I am humbled and incredibly proud to be given the honour to continue representing you and our wonderful region in the NSW Parliament.

Thank you also to David Mailer, Merc Goldstein and Debra O'Brien for such an enjoyable and pleasant campaign.

Since I was first elected just over two years ago, I have enjoyed working hard on local issues and projects in partnership with communities right across our region. We've made some enormous inroads and gained great momentum on projects which I'm now looking forward to continuing over the next four years.

I'm also eager to work closely with the new communities of the Moree Plains Shire and have already spent a lot of time out west familiarising myself with people and their issues.

My first priority has been to ensure the government delivers on its \$90 million commitment to the Armidale and Inverell communities for the hospital redevelopments.

I've also begun working on a proposal with local stakeholders to upgrade Moree District Hospital and I have already met with Health Minister Jillian Skinner to flag this proposal with her and the department.

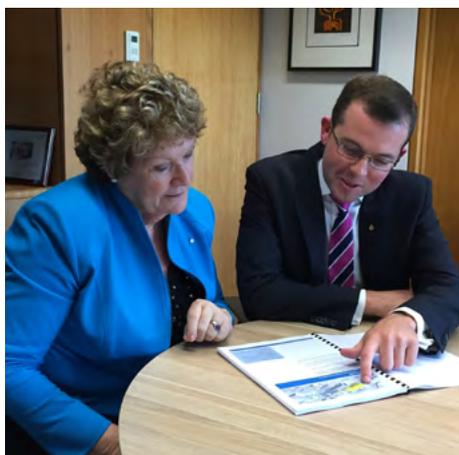
I will also be following up on the other specific commitments extracted during the campaign, including \$90 million to upgrade the Newell Highway near Moree, including new passing lanes, and \$1 million to help Armidale Dumaresq Council with the costs of opening up access to the new industrial developments near the airport.

There are, and will be many other issues and projects that I will be advocating for and I'll continue to speak up, and speak out on behalf of people in the region and our needs. Your priorities drive my agenda and I would welcome your contact at any time.

Adam Marshall MP  
Member for Northern Tablelands

### Some of your priorities that I will be fighting for include:

- Delivering the Armidale and Inverell Hospital redevelopments;
- The enhancement of Moree District Hospital;
- Delivering \$1 million to support the access to new industrial developments at Armidale Regional Airport'
- Progressing plans for a new Police Station at Inverell;
- Delivering the \$90 million upgrade and new passing lanes on the Newell Highway in the Moree Plains Shire;
- Continuing the development of renewable energy projects;
- Securing the repeal of the Native Vegetation Act;
- Obtaining funding to upgrade Armidale and Moree airports; and
- Delivering a helipad for Glen Innes District Hospital.



## Funding for hospital redevelopments locked in

AFTER meeting recently with the Health Minister Jillian Skinner, I'm very pleased to confirm that the \$60 million for the Armidale Hospital and \$30 million for Inverell Hospital redevelopments has been locked in and set aside, ready to be allocated when the projects reach the construction stage.

In the case of the Armidale Hospital, the final business case will soon be lodged with NSW Treasury for approval, marking one of the final steps in the pre-construction process. We are very close now and I will continue to press for the earliest possible allocation of funds so construction can get underway without any undue delay.

Now that the allocation of funding has been confirmed for the Inverell Hospital redevelopment, Hunter New England Area Health will shortly begin the health services planning process. This is the first step in the redevelopment and an essential one as it's critical we get the very best redevelopment for the community. As part of the preliminary planning, consultation meetings will be held with hospital clinicians, staff and management, as well as with Local Health Advisory Committee members, local doctors, Inverell Shire Council and most importantly, the community.

I will keep the community informed as both projects move forward.

**Adam Marshall** MP

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# Funding for mobile black spots



I HAD the pleasure of welcoming the NSW Regional Development Minister John Barilaro to the electorate in April to announce a \$25 million contribution from the NSW Government towards the Commonwealth's \$100 million Mobile Black Spot Program. Under the agreement, we will work closely with the Commonwealth Government and telecommunication carriers to ensure country communities enjoy better mobile phone coverage, including those in the Northern Tablelands.

We have allocated \$25 million over four years to eliminate some of the state's worst mobile phone black spots and we've leveraged an additional \$35 million from mobile phone carriers.

It is hoped that through this partnership, NSW will receive 130 new mobile towers and extend coverage to more than 20,000 properties that currently miss out.

In the election we promised regional NSW would not have to worry about the stress and hassle associated with mobile black spots, which are costly and inefficient.

This program will improve coverage along major transport routes, in small communities and in locations prone to experiencing natural disasters, as well as addressing unique mobile coverage problems.

The successful locations for new towers will be announced shortly.

# State inquiry into puppy factories

I WELCOMED my appointment as Chair of the NSW Parliament Joint Select Committee which is conducting an inquiry into companion animal breeding practices across the state, most notably illegal puppy factories.

This is an important first step in creating a more accountable, consistent and, most importantly, protective system for those animals that are part of the breeding industry.

It is really important to look at what we should be doing in NSW, including breeder licensing, limiting the number of companion animals that breeders

can have on their properties and looking at other associated issues with the sale of those animals.

We'll be consulting widely with stakeholders and looking at regulations in other jurisdictions. The committee which consists of nine members – five from the Legislative Assembly and four from the Legislative Council met for the first time in mid May and is due to report to Parliament by 31 August 2015.

The committee will be holding a public hearing into breeding practices in Armidale on 14 July 2015.

# Emu Crossing Bridge – Ready by September

AFTER more than a 70-year wait, the Bundarra community will soon have a new Emu Crossing Bridge over the Gwydir River with construction of the new \$4.2 million structure now in the final stages.

With the bridge structure now completed, the Uralla Shire Council's road construction crews have begun work on the 1.6 kilometres of road approaches at both ends. This is great news for the Bundarra community and the entire region.

They've waited a long time for this new bridge and the whole project should be finished and open for use by September this year.



*The final concrete pour on the two-lane bridge was completed last month.*

# Minister confirms water embargoes gone for good

AFTER a meeting with irrigators and farmers in Moree in May, Minister Niall Blair later confirmed that the NSW Government would lift the water embargo on the region and was working towards securing Broken Hill's short term water supply. While this has not alleviated the current situation for Northern Tablelands irrigators in the Gwydir, Namoi and Macintyre valleys, it will ensure embargoes are never required for this purpose in the future.

I'm pleased the Minister had the opportunity to discuss a range of issues with the irrigators including the accuracy in the flow forecast, fees and licensing, and works at Menindee that will benefit the northern basin.

The Minister is currently investigating every issue that was raised at that meeting and has committed to reporting back to me and the irrigators. He also took some of the irrigators' proposals to the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council meeting in Melbourne last month.



*Owen Berry (manager of Midkin, Auscott), Rick Colless (Parliamentary Secretary for Natural Resources and Regional Planning), Niall Blair (Primary Industries, Lands and Water Minister) inspect a cotton crop while discussing irrigation issues.*

# Working for the Northern Tablelands

## SAFE SHOOTING PROGRAM:

- ✓ **\$17,292** for the **Armidale Rifle Club** for the purchase of a target system, installation of a culvert over a watercourse and re-alignment of shooting mounds.



- ✓ **\$10,000** for the **Inverell RSM Pistol Club** to upgrade the range mounds.
- ✓ **\$2,030** for the **SSAA NSW Guyra Branch** to complete the concreting and roofing of the firing line.
- ✓ **\$10,568** for **The Armidale School Rifle Club** to upgrade their range.

## HABITAT ACTION GRANTS

- ✓ **\$31,103** to the **Inverell Shire Council** to assist with the control of Cat's Claw Creeper on the Dumaresq River.

- ✓ **\$17,850** to the **Inverell Shire Council** to assist with the removal of invasive weed species along the Macintyre River.

## NSW ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST GRANT RECIPIENTS

- ✓ **\$31,317** to the **Inverell Shire Council** to reduce food waste and increase skills in food waste avoidance.
- ✓ **\$99,620** to the **Ashford Local Aboriginal Land Council** to improve land management along the Severn River.
- ✓ **\$186,562** to the **Inverell Shire Council** to fully close and consolidate the Elsmore rural landfill.
- ✓ **\$96,004** to the **Citizens Wildlife Corridors Armidale** to rehabilitate and revegetate 18 sites on properties in or adjacent to koala corridors around Dangars Falls, Mount Duval and the University of New England.
- ✓ **\$199,308** to the **Inverell Shire Council** to develop Ashford rural landfill to a Waste Transfer Station.
- ✓ **\$34,930** to **Inverell Shire Council** to assist with the control of Cat's Claw Creeper along the Dumaresq River.

# Push for a new Inverell Police Station



I HAVE recently stepped up my push for the construction of a new Inverell Police Station by issuing an invitation to Police Minister and Deputy Premier Troy Grant and Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione to visit the 55-year-old station in the next few months.

When the station was built and opened in 1960, Inverell had a police force of 14 officers. Today, 55 years later, there are 46 police working in roughly the same space and who are now overflowing from the station into the three nearby police residences.

It is far from an ideal situation and not conducive to modern, professional policing, which the Inverell community deserves. As Inverell continues to grow and develop into a regional centre, police numbers will likely grow but there is not even enough space in the current station for 46 police, let alone any more into the future.

Inverell stands out as a station in need of replacement – it has served the community well for over half a century, but now we need a larger and modern station to meet the community's policing needs for the next 50 years.

## Sport and Recreation Facility Grants – March 2015

- ✓ **\$25,000** for the **Barbarians Rugby Union Football Club** to install an underground watering system at their grounds
- ✓ **\$21,500** for the **Inverell and District Soccer Association** to upgrade water system, lighting in change rooms and toilets



- ✓ **\$7,000** for the **Armidale Archers** to construct a disabled toilet facility at their archery range



- ✓ **\$19,000** for the **North Armidale Tennis Club** to lay artificial turf on one of their courts
- ✓ **\$8,400** for the **Inverell Polocrosse Club** to install a water supply system on their grounds



- ✓ **\$25,000** for the **Uralla Shire Council** to construct multi-use courts at the Uralla Sporting Complex
- ✓ **\$6,450** for the **Moree Motorcycle Club** to construct a female shower block at the Boolooroo Raceway MX track
- ✓ **\$16,030** for the **Inverell Motor Cycle Sports Club** to install dust suppression system at the motorsport complex



# Out and about in the electorate



**Celebrating a new partnership:** The Vino Geek Sam Watson, left, Judy Peterson, Colin Peterson, Minister for Regional Development John Barilaro, Andrew Close (Treasurer New England Wine Association) Peter Sniekers (NSW Trade and Investment), Rolf Bickling of Banalasta Wines and Darryl Carter of Whyworry Wines.



**NSW State Emergency Service Cadet of the Year winner:** Warialda high school student Kodie Hardy was presented with his award in Parliament House. He is pictured here with NSW SES Commissioner Adam Dent and Warialda SES Controller Graham Moxey.



**Moree Secondary College meeting:** Sylvia Muggleton, Noelene Briggs-Smith, Angela Heath, Craig Burdon, Paula Barton, Crystal Duncan, Michelle Hall, Michael Davison, Belinda Bagshaw, Lloyd Munro and Betty Swan.



**Looking over plans for the refurbishment of the Dhiyaan Centre:** Director Corporate Services Mitchell Johnson, Moree Services Club Manager Graham James and Centre Manager Chris Binge.



**Armidale Youth Assist support workers:** Courtney Ford, Desmond Ahoy and Youth Assist Transport Service founding member Chris Halligan.



**New tanker for Yetman:** NSW Rural Fire Service Yetman Brigade members Ben Potter, Kelvin Leeson and Shane Taylor.



**Glen Innes High School leaders:** Captains Hannah Newsome, Patrick Lane, Principal Mike Gray, and Vice Captains Bailey Sharman and Lindsay Dunn.