

Talking Tablelands

with Adam Marshall MP

your Member for Northern Tablelands



Drought Assistance

The galvanising issue for us all in the Northern Tablelands and across many parts of NSW is the devastating drought which has brought our farming communities to their knees.

After many months of lobbying on behalf of the drought-stricken communities of the Northern Tablelands, I welcomed the NSW Government's announcement early last month of an assistance package for primary producers in the electorate. The support measures, which are back-dated to 1 January 2014, are assisting graziers in the local government areas of Armidale Dumaresq, Glen Innes, Guyra, Gwydir, Inverell, Tenterfield, Uralla and Walcha.

It's critical our primary producers receive this vital support while dealing with this unprecedented crisis. The freight subsidies will provide just the right support as anyone keeping their core breeding stock going has been bringing in fodder over significant distances, including Victoria and South Australia.

I know that it will make a huge difference across the region and allow farmers to make decisions before winter with some better certainty.

Assistance package provides

- up to \$20,000 to each primary producer for Transport/Freight Assistance Reimbursement;
- up to \$30,000 to each primary producer for Emergency Water Infrastructure grants
- the waiving of Local Land Services rates and Wild Dog Destruction Board rates for a 12-month period, where applicable.

Adam Marshall



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Community Building Partnership grants



ARMIDALE:

- ✓ **\$6,000** – Armidale Community Preschool for an outdoor learning area
- ✓ **\$25,000** – Armidale District Netball Association to assist with the construction of a new court
- ✓ **\$20,000** – Armidale Rotary Club to help upgrade BackTrack's workshop and classroom
- ✓ **\$11,687** – University of Third Age to paint exterior of ASCA House

GLEN INNES:

- ✓ **\$5,000** – Glen Innes Historical Society to purchase shipping container to store records
- ✓ **\$22,500** – Glen Innes Tennis Association to resurface two courts
- ✓ **\$11,000** – Glencoe Community Hall for repairs and maintenance
- ✓ **\$10,000** – Wellingrove Progress Association to restump and reclad Wellingrove Church

GUYRA:

- ✓ **\$10,256** – Guyra Polocrosse to upgrade canteen
- ✓ **\$4,000** – Guyra Shire Council to build a walking trail

- ✓ **\$6,970** – Wandsworth Progress Association to install a disability access ramp

GWYDIR:

- ✓ **\$5,825** – Warialda Captain Cook Park
- ✓ **\$26,000** – Warialda Community Netball to resurface courts
- ✓ **\$14,950** – Touriandi Lodge for new floor coverings

INVERELL:

- ✓ **\$21,000** – New shed for the Linking Together Centre
- ✓ **\$6,000** – Inverell East rotary club for park equipment
- ✓ **\$9,570** – Cool room for Best Employment Community Garden
- ✓ **\$9,514** – Purchase of exercise equipment for park – Inverell Shire Council

TENTERFIELD:

- ✓ **\$30,000** – Tenterfield Netball Association to resurface courts

URALLA:

- ✓ **\$10,000** – Kingstown Pony Club to build new stables and riding arena

WALCHA:

- ✓ **\$13,837** – Walcha Men's Shed
- ✓ **\$20,000** – Footpaths to be built by Walcha council



Drought Appeal

Armidale radio station 2AD recently launched an appeal for farmers in the region struggling to cope with the current drought conditions and I'd like to encourage people to support this by making a donation at any branch of New England Mutual.

The New England Drought Relief Appeal will run until 31 March and all money raised will be used to purchase stock feed, water and groceries which will be distributed by Armidale's Salvation Army.

For further enquiries or to promote a fundraiser, email Mr McMillan on admin@neb2ad.com.au

Donations to the appeal can be made at any branch of New England Mutual or paid directly to:

Account name:
New England Drought Relief Appeal
BSB: 962 000
Account Number: 735 555



Launching the appeal at the Armidale New England Mutual Branch were Salvation Army soldiers Betty Cherry, Caroline Patterson, Robert Patterson, Helen Stace, Branch Manager Gray Malone and 2AD/FM100.3 Manager Steve McMillan.

School visits

I always welcome the opportunity to visit schools and attend their award ceremonies and speech days. It's great to see firsthand the work done by the hard-working staff and their students so it was certainly a pleasure to visit the small schools at Croppa Creek and North Star. They have some great projects going on there and I commend the staff who are so enthusiastic about the area, the school and their students.



North Star Public School staff members Katie Dight, Kerrie Pearlman and principal Marion Thatcher and students

Funding assistance

When the Salvation Army relaunched their community kitchen and began providing up to 80 lunchtime meals each Wednesday, it quickly became apparent they needed an industrial dishwasher; the volunteers were spending up to two hours a day washing up. When approached, I was only too happy to lend my support and was pleased to be able to secure a grant of \$2,750 to purchase the dishwasher.



Armidale Salvation Army Corps volunteer Howard Doran, Lt Ged Oldfield and volunteer Lyn Jobson.

Recognising local health workers

It was a pleasure to present the Hunter New England Tablelands Cluster Quality Awards and Long Service Awards in Glen Innes late last year. I was impressed with the quality of programs health professionals in our region have developed. We are incredibly lucky to have so many who are devoted to their professions and the communities they serve.

I also presented long service awards to 42 people for 30 years and more of service. This may be something we won't see much of in the future. With an expectation that Gen X/Y will change jobs every five years, this dedication to service is an exceptional insight into the character of the health professionals in our region. I want to specially mention Mrs Judith Grills from the Guyra MPS who served her community for 48 years and retired in December. What a wonderful career she has had and certainly loved and appreciated by all who have been in her care.



Presenting awards to the Guyra Multipurpose Service team members Glenda Soraghan, Deb Heagney and Chris Hakanson.

Welcome back REX Airlines

REX Airlines' announcement that it will again fly the Armidale to Sydney route is good news for the region and I was very pleased to play my part in helping bring them back. The competition the airline will bring (36 weekly flights and 60,000 new seats per annum) will be hugely beneficial for everyone throughout the Northern Tablelands.

Their return is made in a climate where regional air services are under immense pressure – the recent collapse of Brindabella Airlines is evidence of this, in addition to profit statements of Qantas and REX in recent weeks.

I urge people to support both carriers to ensure this region can sustain competition, and the benefits it brings, into the long term.

Supporting community programs

I was happy to be able to secure a life line for the New England Conservatorium of Music (NECOM) in the form of a one-off grant of \$15,000 to help fund its successful Music Therapy Program for this year. This is on top of a \$51,000 grant to assist with funding for NECOM's annual music programs.



New England Conservatorium of Music Therapist Natalie Nugent, Director Susanne James and Program Director Corinne Arter.



Grants from the Public Reserve Management Funds - \$308,623

GLEN INNES:

- ✓ **\$2,800** – Glen Innes Pistol Club to spray St John's Wort and blackberry bushes

GUYRA:

- ✓ **\$30,000** – Guyra Showground Trust to upgrade their community hall kitchen

GWYDIR:

- ✓ **\$45,000** – Bingara Racecourse and Showground Reserve Trust for the construction of a new canteen
- ✓ **\$45,000** – Gwydir Shire Council for installation of five toilets at camping reserves along the Gwydir River
- ✓ **\$20,000** – Croppa Creek Public Recreation Reserve Trust for a new gear-driven park mower

INVERELL:

- ✓ **\$2,600** - Elsmore Common Trust for 1000m of fencing along the adjoining boundary;
- ✓ **\$8,000** - Gilgai Hall and Recreation Reserves Trust to repair and update the hall, replace the hot water system and produce a web site
- ✓ **\$25,000** - Mt Russell Community Hall Committee to weatherproof the hall by undertaking roof repairs
- ✓ **\$3,000** - Myall Creek Public Hall and Recreation Reserve Trust to assist with the purchase of a mower
- ✓ **\$5,000** - Nullamanna Public Hall & Recreation Reserve to assist with the insulation of the hall
- ✓ **\$4,620** - Staggy Creek Recreation Reserve Trust to replace the old boundary fence
- ✓ **\$2,684** - Wallangra War Memorial Hall Trust to install a bench, servery area, shelves and cupboards

TENTERFIELD:

- ✓ **\$2,000** - Tenterfield Common Trust to spray blackberry and prickly bushes
- ✓ **\$4,400** - Tenterfield Showground Trust to replace skylights in the main pavilion
- ✓ **\$2,939** - Torrington War Memorial and Recreation Reserve Trust to repair boundary fencing

URALLA:

- ✓ **\$30,000** - Bundarra Showground for the upgrade of its amenities block
- ✓ **\$6,000** - Bundarra Public Recreation Reserve to conduct weed and pest control and mowing and slashing
- ✓ **\$6,000** - Mount Mutton Lookout to conduct weed control
- ✓ **\$7,290** - Racecourse Lagoon to conduct bush fire and pest /weed control works

WALCHA:

- ✓ **\$45,700** - Nowendoc Trust to install a new commercial grade kitchen in the Memorial Hall
- ✓ **\$10,550** - Walcha Showground and Public Recreation Reserve Trust to replace the roof and provide proper drainage for the poultry pavilion.

Local Schools, Local Decisions

Facts about education funding in the Northern Tablelands

- ✓ The introduction of the Gonski Education reforms will see education funding in NSW increase by over \$5 billion, in line with the Federal Government agreement
- ✓ This had equated to a \$2.81 million increase in funding to the Northern Tablelands for 2014
- ✓ The 53 public schools in the electorate will benefit from 120 per cent increase in equity funding - totalling \$5.05 million for 2014.
- ✓ Equity funding is controlled by school principals and expended according to each school's priorities.
- ✓ Community preschools will receive \$388,351 in additional funding under the new Preschool Funding Model.
- ✓ \$30 million has been allocated for new incentives to attract quality teachers and school leaders to rural and remote areas.
- ✓ \$8 million has been allocated to establish a 'virtual' secondary school giving high school students in rural and remote areas the opportunity to study specialist subjects not available in their own schools.
- ✓ After pressure from the NSW State Government, the Federal Government agreed in December to honour its pre-election commitment to fund the Gonski education reforms in NSW



Funding for kitchen upgrade: Guyra Shire Councillor Dean Heagney, Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner and Guyra Shire Council General Manager Peter Stewart inspect the soon-to-be renovated kitchen in the community hall at the Guyra Showgrounds.



New skylights for main pavilion: Tenterfield Showground Trust Vice Chairman John Landis, Chairman Bruce Petries and Tenterfield Shire Mayor Peter Petty outside the showground pavilion.



Armidale City Public School: 2013 school leaders Antony Keller, Kate Jones, Katrina Curtis with school principal Cherrie Patterson

Working for the Northern Tablelands

SEPTEMBER

- ✓ **New laws enacted to outlaw** the manufacture, supply and advertising of all harmful **synthetic drugs**
- ✓ **\$32,604** for a new 2D digitised projection system for Tenterfield's School of Art Cinema
- ✓ **\$12,667** for **New England Regional Art Museum (NERAM)** Drummond school's Project iD
- ✓ Early work begins on the **Emu Crossing Bridge** at Bundarra
- ✓ **\$5,500** to purchase electric barbeque for the Bundarra Park

OCTOBER

- ✓ **\$8,000** for the **New England Bach Festival** to stage 2014 concerts



- ✓ **Minister for Community Service Pru Goward** opens the Armidale-New England Foundations Care office
- ✓ Delivered a simple message to **QantasLink** in Parliament – “pull your socks up, we deserve better”
- ✓ **\$40,000** for **New England Regional Art Museum (NERAM)** to run its annual program of events
- ✓ **\$51,000** for the **New England Conservatorium of Music (NECOM)** to run music programs



- ✓ **\$62,000** for Glen Innes Severn council to prepare a new **Development Control Plan** for new housing
- ✓ **\$12,800** for **Opera North West**
- ✓ **\$5,595** to **Armidale North's United Football Club** to upgrade its second field at the Phil Wheaton Grounds
- ✓ **TransGrid** cancels its plans to a controversial Far North Transmission Line near **Tenterfield**



- ✓ **\$44,000** to preserve the historic **Tenterfield Post Office** and Quarters

NOVEMBER

- ✓ **\$17,000** - available for people wishing to relocate to regional areas through the **Regional Relocation Grant Scheme**
- ✓ **\$15,000** for the **New England Conservatorium of Music's (NECOM)** Music Therapy Program
- ✓ Representation to **Minister for Primary Industries Katrina Hodgkinson** to take further steps to help alleviate some of their financial burdens of drought stricken communities
- ✓ **\$2,750** to **Armidale Salvation Army** to purchase an industrial dishwasher for their Community Kitchen
- ✓ **\$1.2million** extra funding allocated to weed eradication in the Northern Tablelands
- ✓ **\$455,000** to the **Tenterfield Main Street Renewal Project**



- ✓ **\$2,000** to run activities in Armidale and Inverell to raise awareness of the **impact of domestic violence** on families
- ✓ **\$40,000** to support Armidale's outreach bus service that picks up Aboriginal youth from the streets at night

DECEMBER

- ✓ **\$135,000** for the Armidale-based **Foundation for Regional Development** to hold Country Living Expo next year in Sydney
- ✓ **\$1.3million** upgrades to **Glen Innes Hospital** completed
- ✓ **Minister for Local Government Don Page** visits Armidale and reiterates there will be **no forced amalgamation**
- ✓ **\$14,446** to eight local arts groups
- ✓ **\$232,000** boost for **New England Respite Care**
- ✓ A **public inquiry into NSW regional air services** announced



- ✓ **\$461,500** secured for **New England and Western Tenants Advice & Advocacy Service**

JANUARY

- ✓ **\$2.3million** for capital improvement projects at nine **schools** in the Electorate
- ✓ **Attorney General Greg Smith** opens new **Armidale Court House**
- ✓ **\$9million** allocated to the upgrade of the **power network** in the **Inverell** district

FEBRUARY

- ✓ **\$4,000** in grants to assist with **Seniors Week** celebrations



- ✓ **\$1,250** for the **Armidale Dam Dragons** to purchase a boat trailer
- ✓ **\$846** for **Uralla Historical Society** for subscription to worldwide database E-hive
- ✓ **\$10,147** for Northern Tablelands **Youth Week** celebrations



- ✓ **\$3,500** for **Rocky River Public School** to help regenerate school garden
- ✓ **\$60,000** for **Armidale Dumaresq Council** for wood smoke reduction program
- ✓ **\$9,900** grant for restoration of **Inverell's WWI Memorial**
- ✓ **Disaster assistance** for **Gwydir** and **Walcha** communities suffering loss after September/October bushfires

Out and About in the Electorate



Restoration of historic Wellingrove Church: Wellingrove Progress Association members Renate Blumkaitis, Amber Doney, Cheryl Rudd with James Doney, Dawn Cooper, Josie Doney and Joy Doney.



Upgrade for Warialda netball courts and Captain Cook Park: Leeah Daley, Cr Angela Doering, Cr Geoff Smith, Cr Stuart Dick, Netball Association President Rachel Sherman and Natasha Ford.



Grant funding for Kingstown Pony Club: President Greg Stier and club riders who competed at the Zone 13 Jamboree in Armidale.



Repairs to Walcha Showgrounds: Walcha Poultry Club President Stuart Wellings and Walcha Show President Tim Norton.



New courts for Tenterfield Netball Association: Tenterfield Shire Mayor Peter Petty, Netball Association Treasurer Robyn Hillier and President Deidre Curr.



Upgrades for Glen Innes Tennis Club: Treasurer Sue Rees, Assistant Secretary Mavis Haselwood and President Peter Haselwood.



Congratulating local Special Olympians: Disability Minister John Ajaka with Special Olympians Maxwell Wayte, William Brundsdon and Sara Brazier.



Funding for Nullamanna Public Hall: Reserve Trust members Irene and Fred Crowther, and Chairman David Worsle.



Croppa Creek Public School: Computer lessons for students.