

Talking Tablelands

with Adam Marshall MP

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



From Adam's desk...

Dry conditions across the region

IT'S shaping up to be a long and tough winter for many of our region's primary producers. While the Northern Tablelands is not in drought conditions yet, with the first of the season's frosts having already hit and little prospect of good rains in the foreseeable future, drought conditions may only be matter of weeks away for much of our area. Sadly, there are many parts of the State far worse off than us.

While the last few years have seen very strong stock prices, destocking commenced early and many have put feed away, it's still necessary for governments to support our farmers.

The NSW Government has already announced a package of assistance, but in anticipation of some tougher times over the coming months here on the land, I have discussed the worsening situation with the Deputy Premier and Primary Industries Minister and requested the government consider a further assistance package for farmers.

Guyra water pipeline

I'VE been working with Armidale Regional Council for over 12 months now on the most important water security project our region has seen for decades – the construction of a water pipeline from Malpas Dam to Guyra.

Guyra currently consumes roughly twice as much water each year than is able to be held in the town's water storage dams. The \$12.8 million project is critical to drought-proof Guyra, dramatically improve water quality for all local residents and provide certainty for further horticultural developments in the district. It's more than just a pipeline, involving the construction of bran new pumping and water treatment facilities at Guyra.

Council has worked with landholders to secure a route for the pipeline and is ready to put the whole project out to tender, we just need the money.

I am actively lobbying the Regional Water Minister and Deputy Premier to unlock \$10.5 million from the NSW Government for the project. This is a critical project in my view and I am not going to allow it to stall because funding cannot be found. Guyra and our region need this pipeline to grow and prosper.

Adam Marshall

\$30 million Inverell Hospital redevelopment: Stage One

INVERELL will finally have the hospital it deserves. Construction on the \$30 million Stage One redevelopment of Inverell District Hospital will start by the middle of this year.

The tender process is underway for the new facility with a number of high quality candidates putting forward proposals. These shortlisted companies are now finalising their bids, with the head contractor soon to be announced.

This redevelopment will cater for the community's health needs for decades to come and ensure locals are cared for in a modern health care facility that is on par with the type of facilities we see in the city.

Over the next 18 months, the community will see the equivalent of a brand new hospital built at the rear of the existing facility. This will house 38 new inpatient beds, a new paediatric facility, space for a CT scanner, a new birthing suite, a new operating theatre, an increase in

day-surgery beds from one bed to six, eight new renal dialysis chairs, a private room for victims of abuse and a new sterilising unit.

I know the local hospital staff are incredibly excited about this project. They have been very patient waiting for this new hospital, purpose designed and built to modern health standards including pumped oxygen in every room.

I have requested another \$30 million from the Government to fund Stage Two of this redevelopment which would gut the old hospital, fully refurbish the building and allow allied and community health services to be co-located with the new facility. This would mean services such as dental, oncology and physiotherapy would have a new building to work in, conveniently located for staff and patients alike.

The successful construction contractor will be announced soon, ahead of a construction start in July.



I was delighted to be joined by Inverell Shire Council representatives, clinicians and local advocates to announce the call for tenders for Stage One of the Inverell Hospital redevelopment.

Adam Marshall MP

Armidale office: Suite 1, 175 Rusden Street, Armidale NSW 2350 **Phone:** 02 6772 5552 **Fax:** 02 6772 5026

Moree office: Suites 2-6, 161 Balo Street, Moree NSW 2400 **Phone:** 02 6752 5002 **Fax:** 02 6752 6102

Mail: PO Box 77, Armidale NSW 2350 **Email:** northerntablelands@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Web: www.adammarshall.com.au



Chasing \$5 million for Armidale business park



The proposal to build a 73-lot Business Park in Armidale was well received by the Deputy Premier.

MY campaign to secure \$5 million from the NSW Government to develop Armidale Regional Airport's proposed 73-lot Business Park ramped up earlier this month when I took Deputy Premier John Barilaro on a tour of the proposed site.

I first presented the Deputy Premier with this proposal in January this year, but this was a great opportunity for him to see first-hand how important this business park will be for the region and the local economy.

With around 200 new jobs set to be created with the development of the park, this would be the biggest jobs creation project Armidale has seen for decades.

Armidale Regional Council has done a great job with the proposal and also ensuring the new \$3 million roundabout on the New England Highway is being constructed to provide access to the park, the airport and Saumarez Homestead.

Should the \$5 million be secured, council will fund the remaining \$2.2 million, to subdivide 17.5 hectares of land to the immediate south of the airport, building roads, utilities and amenities to cater to up to dozens of new industrial and commercial lots.

This area is perfect for industrial and commercial usage, providing direct access to the airport precinct and the New England Highway. It's an area for business development that Armidale has traditionally lacked.

These plans have been a long time in the making, but now the time is right to open up this park and start creating hundreds of new jobs in the region.

I'll do everything I can to get this important economic development project across the line and to unlock the huge economic benefits for the region.

\$2 million for Bingara tourism project

I WAS thrilled to recently announce \$2 million in NSW Government funding for a visionary Bingara tourist and cultural project - Big River Dreaming 'The Water Weaving Way' to attract more visitors to beautiful Bingara.

The project will enhance Bingara's natural beauty and key asset – the Gwydir River waterfront, as well as integrate the town's recreational facilities, pool and Aboriginal heritage into one cohesive tourism destination.

This project truly is unique to Bingara, with the pedestrian pathway and cycleway connecting different elements and sites in the town, from future projects which will educate and promote a sustainable future,

to profound moments of our shared history by incorporating the Myall Creek site into the project, which will now be accessible via a cycleway.



Bingara tourism project set to draw more visitors to the region.

New bridge over Nee Nee Creek

I WAS on site to open the new Nee Creek Bridge on the Newell Highway, 50km north of Moree. The new \$7.25 million, 60m bridge has been built to withstand the heavy freight load the Newell deals with every day.

Currently, there are up to 4000 vehicles travelling between Boggabilla and Moree on a daily basis. The new bridge has been built to withstand that frequency and future transport growth, with the concrete footings drilled 20 metres down into bedrock. It has also been built to withstand catastrophic flood conditions.

It was a pleasure to join the engineers who built the bridge, RMS and locals who have watched the bridge take shape over the past 12 months to cut the ribbon and watch the first trucks cross the bridge.



Cutting the ribbon to open the new Nee Nee Creek Bridge.

Construction underway on new Moree renal dialysis unit

LAST month Mayor Katrina Humphries and I had the pleasure of turning the first sod to start the construction of the \$2 million Renal Dialysis Unit at Moree District Hospital. The new eight-chair unit is being built adjacent to the existing hospital and will herald a new era in renal treatment in Moree.

The unit will be built with the future health care needs of the Moree district in mind, equipped with three extra chairs compared with the existing facility, which was partly funded by the local community.

There will also be an isolation chair, for patients at risk of infection or requiring private treatment – something we've never had before in Moree.

This construction is just the latest development in the Health Infrastructure revolution the Northern Tablelands is experiencing and one that has been long wished-for in Moree.



Moree Plains Shire Council Mayor Katrina Humphries on hand to help turn the first sod on the new \$2 million renal unit.

Rebuild Inverell Police Station - it's time

I AGAIN raised the need for a new 24-hour Inverell Police Station in State Parliament and will maintain the pressure on the government to fund the complete knock down and rebuild as a matter of urgency.

I impressed upon Parliament that the 58-year-old out-dated and inefficient station was inappropriate for modern policing and the law and order demands of the growing Inverell district.

There are 46 fulltime 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 the same space.

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

We need a knock-down and rebuild with a larger and more modern station to service the needs of the Inverell community for the next forty years.



I will maintain pressure on state government to fund a complete rebuild of the Inverell Police Station.

Working for all Northern

Health and Education

- ✓ **\$20,000** for **Inverell Shire Council** *Women in Leadership* workshops.
- ✓ **\$37,464** for **Inverell Best Employment** for the Linking Together Homework Centre.



- ✓ **\$54,895** for **Inverell Shire Library** to enhance digital capabilities.



Water

- ✓ **\$30,106** to **Best Employment Inverell** to help children learn water safety skills.
- ✓ **\$76,100** to **Inverell Shire Council** for the extension of a ramp at Copeton Dam.
- ✓ **\$2,000** to **Inverell Rotary Club** to help with running the Copeton Dam Open Water Swim.

Environment

- ✓ **\$208,000** to **Armidale Regional Council** for extension of **Guyra's** City to Soil program
- ✓ **\$99,957** to **Uralla Z-Net** for the 'Elephant in the Woodlands' program.
- ✓ **\$223,240** to **Armidale Regional Council** for a Community Recycling Centre (CRC).
- ✓ **\$23,000** to **Moree Local Aboriginal Lands Council** for Mehi Crescent Waste Management Program.



- ✓ **\$23,000** to **Moree Local Aboriginal Lands Council** for the Stanley Village Waste Management Program.

Sports

- ✓ **\$3,900** for the **Bingara Sporting Club** for a shade structure on the bowling green.
- ✓ **\$3,000** for the **Moree Services Cycling & Triathlon Club** for sporting equipment and a trailer.
- ✓ **\$6,060** for **Guyra Bowling Club Women's Bowls** for the installation of shades.

- ✓ **\$300** for **Border Branch Australian Stock Horse Society** for a facilitator's course.
- ✓ **\$1,638** for **Hockey New England** for mentoring junior umpires.
- ✓ **\$20,000** for **Inverell Rugby Club** for an upgrade of perimeter fencing.
- ✓ **\$4,070** for **Glen Innes and District Football Association** for goal nets and a line marker.



- ✓ **\$1,000** for **Garah-Boomi Pony Club** for NCAS accreditation.
- ✓ **\$7,994** for **Guyra Gun Club** for disability access to amenities block.
- ✓ **\$2,038** for **Inverell Little Athletics Centre** for a new speaker system.
- ✓ **\$132,400** to **Uralla Sporting Complex** for a new canteen and expanded amenities.



Transport and roads

- ✓ **\$250,000** for **Glen Innes Severn Council** for the new Cam Creek two-lane bridge.
- ✓ **\$154,100** for **Armidale Regional Council** to rebuild 800 metres of rural road.
- ✓ **\$144,410** for **Inverell Shire Council** identifying improvements for roads.
- ✓ **\$63,000** for **Uralla Shire Council** to investigate suitability of transport routes.
- ✓ **\$110,000** to **Gwydir Shire Council** to undertake a study of local roads.
- ✓ **\$510,000** to **Armidale Regional Council** for the Tenterden Road Bridge replacement.



Essential Services

- ✓ **\$179,000** to **Armidale's State Emergency Service** for a new vehicle.
- ✓ **\$179,000** to **Glen Innes State Emergency Service** for a new vehicle.

- ✓ **\$2,400,000** for **NSW Rural Fire Service Northern Tablelands** new fire control centre in Glen Innes.



Education

- ✓ **\$455,000** to **Grace Lutheran Preschool** to construct another classroom.
- ✓ **\$1,200,000** to **Glen Innes High School** for major improvements.
- ✓ **\$294,000** to **Jack and Jill Preschool Inverell** to expand its learning spaces.



- ✓ **\$175,000** to **Bundarra Central School** for a new septic system.
- ✓ **\$4,000** to **Gum Flat Public School P&C** for a new shade awning.
- ✓ **\$6,000,000** to **TAFE NSW Digital** for new headquarters in Armidale.



- ✓ **\$2,000** to **Glen Innes Preschool** for a professional development grant.
- ✓ **\$16,287** to **Armidale Newling Public School** for a solar system.

Arts and Culture

- ✓ **\$3,000** to **Armidale Regional Council** for community cultural development.
- ✓ **\$3,000** to **Armidale Youth Orchestra** to assist with 50th anniversary celebrations.



- ✓ **\$150,000** to **Beyond Empathy** to increase participation in art and cultural activities.

Tablelands' communities

- ✓ **\$80,000** to **New England Regional Art Museum** to increase participation in the arts.
- ✓ **\$96,550** to the **University of New England** to create a new audio history tour.
- ✓ **\$60,000** to **Armidale Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place (ACCKP)** for employment of key staff members.



- ✓ **\$80,000** for the **New England Regional Art Museum** for two new exhibitions.
- ✓ **\$50,000** to **Beyond Empathy Moree** for stART Moree program.
- ✓ **\$50,000** to **Inverell Shire Council** to support the town's calendar of youth events.
- ✓ **\$20,000** for the **Australian Wool Fashion Awards** for marketing of the awards.
- ✓ **\$20,000** to the **National Transport Museum** for the inaugural *Electric Vehicle Expo*.
- ✓ **\$1,770,000** to **Saumarez Homestead** for tourist accommodation.
- ✓ **\$95,000** to **New England Regional Art Museum** to commence updates.
- ✓ **\$2,000,000** to **Gwydir Shire Council** for the Bingara tourist and cultural project.
- ✓ **\$22,000** to **New England Writers Centre** to host the 2018 Writers Festival.



Community Building Partnership Grants

- ✓ **\$29,120** to refurbish **Warialda Parish Hall**.
- ✓ **\$19,266** to **Armidale PCYC** for work, health and safety corrective works.
- ✓ **\$14,500** to purchase a new electronic scoreboard for the **Uralla Tigers**.
- ✓ **\$6,303** to **New England Art Society** for new air-conditioning system in the gallery.
- ✓ **\$12,000** to **Inverell Shire Council** to install four information boards in shire villages.
- ✓ **\$13,854** to **Glen Innes Severn Council** for an inclusive playground in **ANZAC Park**.
- ✓ **\$22,600** for upgrades to the **Kentucky Hall**.



- ✓ **\$15,000** to **Armidale Regional Council** for a new outdoor area at **Guyra Preschool**.
- ✓ **\$27,360** for new flooring and basketball hoops for **Glen Innes Basketball Association**.
- ✓ **\$8,000** to **Ashford Golf Club** to refurbish the clubhouse.
- ✓ **\$50,000** to **Inverell Minor League** for new change rooms.
- ✓ **\$11,000** to **Gwydir Industries Inc.** for the storage of cotton plastic wraps.
- ✓ **\$15,190** to **Inverell Show Society** for display cases and rubber matting.
- ✓ **\$5,654** to **Inverell Lions Club** for replacement of two community barbeques.



- ✓ **\$10,000** to **Armidale's Playhouse** to re-clad external walls.
- ✓ **\$13,000** to **Moree Aged and Disability Services (MADS)** for shade structure over disability parking at **Mungindi**.
- ✓ **\$14,253** to **Wongwinbinda Progress Association** for the cladding of external walls.
- ✓ **\$12,900** to **Uralla Show Society** for a workshop and storage shed.

Stronger Country Communities Funding

- ✓ **\$879,882** to **Armidale Regional Council** to seal 2.3 kilometres of the **Kempsey Road**.
- ✓ **\$516,052** to **Glen Innes Severn Council** to improve **Melling Park** and install a "Wellness Trail".
- ✓ **\$409,000** to refurbish **Armidale Golf Club's** function room and kitchen.



- ✓ **\$780,992** to **Uralla Shire Council** to overhaul seven community parks across the shire.
- ✓ **\$402,554** to **Moree Plains Shire Council** to rejuvenate the green corridor along the **Mehi River**.
- ✓ **\$140,715** to **Moree Plains Shire Council** for the upgrade of community recreational facilities.
- ✓ **\$140,000** to enhance the **Moree Water Ski Park**.
- ✓ **\$139,909** to **Moree Plains Shire Council** to install floodlighting at **Boggabilla sportsground**.
- ✓ **\$229,834** to **Gwydir Shire Council** to upgrade the **Bingara Pool**.
- ✓ **\$325,426** to **Gwydir Shire Council** to upgrade the **Warialda Memorial Hall**.

- ✓ **\$113,734** to **Gwydir Shire Council** to upgrade the **Bingara Central School** basketball court.



- ✓ **\$107,000** to **Gwydir Shire Council** to build a new toilet and shower block at **Coolatai**.

Public Reserves Management Fund (PRMF)

- ✓ **\$12,900** to **Gilgai Public Hall Trust** for a new lawn mower.



- ✓ **\$26,219** for **Emmaville's Rifle Range** to upgrade the electricity supply.
- ✓ **\$29,000** to the **Macintyre Warriors Football Club** for new change room and storage unit.
- ✓ **\$28,578** to **Inverell Shire Council** to spray the **Yetman Common**.
- ✓ **\$29,796** to the **Bundarra Showground** to improve drainage and seal the access road.
- ✓ **\$3,380** for **Ben Lomond's War Memorial Hall** to improve parking facilities.
- ✓ **\$26,980** to paint **Tent Hill Public Hall**.

Business grants

- ✓ **\$1,245,000** to **Boss Engineering** for new sheds and equipment to increase production and create new jobs.
- ✓ **\$250,000** to **Stahmann Farm** at **Moree** to increase production and create new jobs.
- ✓ **\$3,300,000** to **Stone Axe Pastoral Company** at **Ebor** to increase production of Wagyu beef and create new jobs.



Tourism

- ✓ **\$12,000** to **Inverell Shire Council** for new signage.
- ✓ **\$2,000** for **Gravesend Hundred Mile Long Lunch** to stage the event.
- ✓ **\$20,000** for the **Seasons of New England Culinary Festival** to promote the festival.

Doors open at TAFE NSW Digital HQ

LAST month I opened the new \$6 million TAFE NSW Digital Headquarters in Armidale. This high-tech building forms a keystone in the NSW Government's efforts to modernise the vocational education and training sector.

Digital learning is becoming an increasingly significant part of the student experience and development of new cutting-edge courses will be led by tech gurus right here in Armidale.

This high-tech workplace houses 51 new staff members, over half of whom have moved to Armidale from interstate, bringing their partners and children to make the city their new home.

They will use exciting new technologies like virtual and augmented reality, robotics, 3D printing and remote conferencing to develop courses which can then be rolled out to students across the state.

The Digital Headquarters has already met with major employers Lend Lease and Harley Davidson, with staff working directly with industry to ensure students have skills needed by the workplaces of the future.



Armidale's TAFE NSW Digital Headquarters is an incredible boost to regional education and local employment.

New era for historic Saumarez Homestead

I WAS delighted to recently announce \$1.77 million grant from the NSW Government which will help fund a large upgrade of the region's iconic Saumarez Homestead heritage property.

The government contribution will be matched with \$730,000 from Armidale Regional Council and \$200,000 from the National Trust, allowing the \$2.7 million project to get underway immediately.

The unprecedented improvement works will see 10 heritage-style cabins built onsite, which will sleep up to 45 guests behind the existing farm buildings, as well as an additional accommodation space built near the old coach house.

Visitors will also be able to enjoy local produce in a newly renovated restaurant, which will be doubled in size to seat over 90 people.

The development is expected to attract up to 185 visitors a day to Saumarez Homestead, tripling the current yearly visitation from 10,000 to 30,000 people a year.



10 heritage style cabins, which will sleep up to 45 guests, will be built onsite behind the existing farm buildings.

Glen Innes Service NSW Centre open



More than 1,000 government transactions can be completed in the new Service NSW Centre in Glen Innes.

WITH the recent opening of the new Service NSW Centre, Glen Innes residents and business now have easy access to more than 1,000 government transactions and services.

This centre is an incredible improvement upon the old motor registry, whether you're looking to register a marriage, checking a tradesperson's licence, lodging a rental bond or applying for a Seniors' Card, it can all be done in one easy location.

The increased staffing and easy access means customers are being seen in less than two minutes on average - a speedy reception that puts the Glen Innes Service NSW Centre among the quickest in the state.

Early feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with each of the first day's 55 customers leaving satisfied.

Bingara library about to get bigger and better

THE Bingara community will soon have a much larger and more user-friendly modern local library, at a new premises, thanks to a \$200,000 grant from the NSW Government.

The library in its present state is nowhere near large enough and is more akin to a rabbit warren. It will be relocated to the Bingara Civic Centre and will have specialist areas, modern lighting and appropriate line of sight design, so librarians can easily manage the space.

The front façade will also be re-done to have more

street appeal and the central location of the Civic Centre means the library will be located in the heart of the town, where it belongs. The library relocation is jointly funded by the NSW State Government and Gwydir Shire Council, which will tip in \$91,000.

Bingara is fast gaining a reputation as a vibrant town with a strong sense of identity and its own culture as shown by the Orange Festival, the Roxy Theatre, the Living Classroom and the recently announced Big River Dreaming Project. A modern library complements the vibrancy of Bingara.

Renewables 'hot-spot'

THE Northern Tablelands is famed for the quality of its food and fibre production, but it's our region's electricity generation capacity that is sparking excitement in a new outline for the future of renewable energy production. I recently announced the region would take the lead in future renewable energy development, as part of a visionary NSW Government plan to concentrate solar and wind farms and pumped hydro projects in key areas across the state.

The Northern Tablelands is identified as one of three priority areas for further investment in a submission to the Australian Energy Markets Operation (AEMO).

I'm thrilled that the Northern Tablelands is being recognised formally again for its incredible contribution to our state's energy mix. I've long said that our region is the perfect place for wind and solar farms and this submission confirms our vital role in producing the energy our state needs, recognising the incredible investment in our region thus far and identifying room for further growth.

We are quickly becoming the renewables capital of NSW and this report identifies the potential for another 4,000 megawatts of wind capacity, 12,000 megawatts of solar capacity and more than 1,500 potential sites for pumped hydro energy storage. Were this capacity fully utilised, our region could power 1.6 billion energy efficient lights or 16 million oil heaters, nearly two turned on for each household in Australia.

With the Moree Solar Farm and White Rock Windfarm now complete and Sapphire Windfarm very close behind, our region already contains some of the most productive renewable facilities in the nation. Within a few years, the Northern Tablelands will produce 1.51 gigawatts of green energy - a number that will only grow following this incredible mark of confidence in our ability to export power to the state.

This plan could unlock a further 77 gigawatts of new generation capacity, with much of that investment flowing to our region. Action on energy must continue over the coming decades and the Northern Tablelands will be front and centre in the NSW Government's plan.

Locals still being ripped off at the bowser

I REMAIN frustrated by the lack of action from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) on the continually high petrol prices suffered by Armidale residents, compared to other parts of country NSW.

I am demanding to know why nearly 18 months after their 'Report on the Armidale petrol market', nothing has changed in the city.

I wrote to the ACCC again last week to rouse them from their slumber on this issue and get them to do something, not just sit back and watch it happen. I've also taken the matter up with Barnaby Joyce MP.

The ACCC is a federal government body and if they need more powers to get something done about what is blatant price fixing in Armidale, then give them those powers.

Out and about in the electorate



Announcing funding for the **Ashford Golf Club**.



Shooting some clays at **Guyra Gun Club**.



The **Coolatai Sportsground Trust** now have the funds to build a brand new amenities block.



Minimbah Preschool Director Anarla Moran was awarded a NSW Government scholarship to help her undertake further early childhood education studies at the University of New England.



Funding windfall to upgrade **Uralla Shire** parks and gardens.



Enjoying a cuppa with the trustees of the **Tent Hill Public Hall**.



Opening the doors to refurbished **Dhiyaan Aboriginal Centre** in **Moree**.



Time to light up the **Boggabilla** sportsgrounds.



Bingara Swimming Club members are excited about the news of an upgraded pool.