

# Media Release

## Andrew Broad

Member for Mallee

Wednesday 9 May 2018

### **2018-19 FEDERAL BUDGET DELIVERS FOR THE WIMMERA, MALLEE AND MILDURA REGIONS**

Federal Member for Mallee, Andrew Broad MP has welcomed the 2018-19 Federal Budget handed down by the Turnbull Government last night, with plenty of good news for regional Australians living in the Wimmera, Mallee and Mildura regions.

“The Government has delivered a fair and responsible budget for the people of the Wimmera and Mallee. More take home pay with tax relief, better health outcomes, safer roads, support for our children, more jobs so our children and grandchildren don’t have to leave our regions to get the job they want. All the while ensuring Australians are kept safe and the Government lives within its means.”

“Tax relief will mean more money into your pocket to spend on your families. The ability of the Government to deliver the services we need while taxing Australians less, demonstrates that the Liberal National Government is a Government you can trust and rely on.”

“This is a budget that will make a great impact on the people and communities of the Wimmera, Mallee and Mildura regions.”

#### **TAX RELIEF**

The budget is providing tax relief to hard working low and middle income earners with relief of up to \$530 every year from 2018-2019 and 2019-22. Across the Wimmera Mallee and Mildura regions approximately 73.8 per cent of workers are set to receive this tax relief as of 1 July 2018.

“This is an extra \$1000 per year for a couple living in our patch, this is money to spend on your children’s swimming lessons, family outings, and the important things that matter to regional Australians in our patch,” Mr Broad said.

Small businesses with a 10 million dollar turn over or less per annum will see the extension of the \$20,000 Instant Tax Write-Off. This will continue to assist our small local businesses to purchase the things they need to grow their business.

Email [andrew.broad.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:andrew.broad.mp@aph.gov.au)  
Web [www.andrewbroad.com](http://www.andrewbroad.com)  
Phone 1300 131 620

Media contact: Tori Masters  
Email [tori.masters@aph.gov.au](mailto:tori.masters@aph.gov.au)  
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### HEALTH

\$550 million will be invested into a Stronger Rural Health Strategy to support regional doctors in our patch. Under this, the Government will invest \$95.4 million to establish the Murray-Darling Medical School Network to support training for rural students to study medicine in regional Australia. This is a key initiative to attract rural students to study and train in our patch and work in regional hospitals across the Wimmera Mallee and Mildura regions. Mildura is set to benefit from this with further announcements to be made by the Minister for Regional Health, Bridget McKenzie. The strategy will also support more supervision for graduating doctors in our regional areas, supporting young doctors to stay in regional communities.

A further \$338.1 million will be invested into mental health funding with a focus on suicide prevention, research and older Australians – with an additional 1 million people to receive diagnostics, treatment and recovery through a new Million Minds Mission into mental health research.

An investment of \$33.8 million to Lifeline will significantly boost their telephone crisis service. With over one million Australians reaching out to lifeline each year; they will be able to answer close to 100 per cent of their calls.

The budget will also support a free whooping cough vaccine for every pregnant woman in the electorate from July 1 2018 investing \$39.5 million to see the vaccine added to the National Immunisation Program.

### REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A \$200 million investment has been announced for Round 3 of the Building Better Regions Fund to support more projects being delivered across our patch. In the past this fund has delivered significantly to Wimmera, Mallee and Mildura regions with previous projects including the Grampians Peak Trail and the Mildura Regional Airport Runway Upgrade.

### EDUCATION & TRAINING

Under this budget every school in the Mallee will receive more funding with a 50 per cent increase in per student funding on average over the next decade.

Thanks to the ongoing advocacy from the people of our patch The National Chaplaincy Program has been given permanent ongoing funding to ensure students across the Wimmera Mallee and Mildura region have access to support services at their school when they need them.

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More families across the Wimmera Mallee and Mildura regions whose children choose to study at university will be supported with 77.3 per cent qualifying for Youth Allowance to help assist their studies.

### **ROADS, TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE**

In 2018 major infrastructure projects will continue to roll out in the electorate with the \$440 million Murray Basin Rail Project being constructed across the regions. We will also see the \$20 million upgrades continue on the Calder Hwy and Western Hwy with the \$44 million Western Hwy duplication also underway.

Regional roads will continue to be upgraded and maintained with \$10.2 million committed to Roads to Recovery which will be split between local councils in the Electorate of Mallee.

\$920,000 has been invested in the Bridges Renewal Program, supporting the upgrade and replacement of vital bridges across our patch.

The budget will also support the extension of the Remote Airstrip Funding Program continuing to connect the electorate to the rest of the state. Recently this program supported the upgrade announced at the Hopetoun Airstrip.

An investment of \$60 million in Financial Assistance Grants will support local councils in the Electorate of Mallee with the funding free to be allocated as they choose.

### **SOCIAL SERVICES**

The 20,234 Australians living on the aged pension in our patch will be able to work more without it affecting their pension. As of 1 July 2019 pensioners can each earn up to \$300 per fortnight from work before it is counted in the income test.

### **INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS**

\$5 billion over four years has been committed to deliver and support the Indigenous Advancement Strategy. Previously this strategy has invested more than \$6 million for sustainable employment for the indigenous community in our region, getting children into school, adults to work and building safer communities.

### **AGRICULTURE**

A \$51.3 million investment will grow Australian agriculture exports by extending the positions of five current overseas Agricultural Counsellors and funding a further six to strengthen our trade relationships.

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\$121.6 million will be invested in biosecurity systems to support increased trade and better manage future risks in the sector to support our growers.

\$260 million in GPS technology will deliver a Satellite-Based Augmentation Strategy to improve the performance of positioning data from 5 metres to 10 centimetres, great news for our broad acre farmers across the Wimmera, Mallee and Mildura regions.

### **WATER**

The Murray Darling Basin Plan will unlock \$300 million of investment in Electorate of Mallee for seven environmental water projects to be delivered. This investment will bring security and substantial environmental benefit to our river communities and farmers.

### **CONCLUSION**

“The 2018-19 Federal Budget is a budget that is delivering the things that we need to make our communities great, at the same time as putting more money back into the pockets of hard working regional Australians.”

**-ENDS-**

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