

Media Release

Andrew Broad

Member for Mallee

Wednesday 1 August 2018

\$189,000 IN SMART FARMING GRANTS TO THE REGION

Farmers and land managers across Wycheproof and the Mallee will benefit from Landcare Smart Farms Small Grant funding to adapt to change, innovate and become more sustainable.

Federal Member for Mallee, Andrew Broad MP has welcomed \$189,697 worth of Smart Farms Small Grants to the region which will help local landcarers and farmers protect and improve the condition of soil, vegetation and biodiversity on local land.

Mr Broad said the money will go to two local farmer groups in the electorate,

“Mallee Sustainable Farming will receive \$89,847 for their project while the Birchip Cropping Group will receive \$99,850. This money will go toward two important projects across our region, one based in Wycheproof and the other in the Mallee.”

Mallee Sustainable Farming will use the Smart Farms Small Grant for their project titled, *‘Enhancing the skills of Mallee farmers to measure whole farm sustainability’*. The project aims to support local land managers to create more sustainable agricultural practices and increase their productivity.

Birchip Cropping Group will use their grant of \$99,850 to deliver their project titled, *‘Using standard crops to finish lambs and improve summer groundcover and soil health.’* This project aims to help farm managers better understand integrating cropping and livestock systems, leading to greater flexibility and reduced environmental and economic risk for the business.

“Mallee farmers and community groups have an intimate knowledge of the land they live and work on, so these grants are about giving them tools and technology to be more sustainable for the future,” Mr Broad said.

“The results of these projects will really benefit our local farmers and they help ensure that the land and farming practices across our patch are thriving for years to come.

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