

Funding flows for Warren Shire Drought Communities Programme

25 February 2019

Residents of the Warren Shire Council area will soon see funds flow for drought support, with \$900,000 worth of projects now approved under the Coalition's Drought Communities Programme (DCP).

Member for Parkes Mark Coulton said he is delighted that Council has now had four of their proposed local projects approved.

"I am so pleased to give the go-ahead for Warren Shire Council to deliver projects that will greatly benefit the community, especially in the current challenging dry times," Mr Coulton said.

"Council will use \$600,000 in DCP funding for water management and drought-proofing including the provision of water storage tanks at Collie, water storage and piping to Warren Airport, and the provision of water troughs along local stock routes.

"With further DCP funding, Council will deliver fencing and development projects at the local airport and library, and rejuvenate six halls in the shire.

"I know these projects will provide a much-welcome boost for locals and visitors, and I look forward to seeing them evolve."

The approved projects include:

- **\$600,000 for water management and drought-proofing in Warren Shire** – provision of water storage tanks (reservoir) at Collie village; water storage and piping to Warren Airport and industrial estate; provision of water troughs along stock routes in the shire
- **\$160,000 for fencing at Warren Airport and fencing/development at Warren Library**
- **\$60,000 for local halls in Warren Shire** – Nevertire Hall; Warren CWA Hall; Endeavour Hall in Warren; Collie CWA Hall; Marthaguy Hall; Marra Hall
- **\$80,000 for drought relief events in Warren, Nevertire, Collie, Marthaguy and The Marra** (*announced in December 2018*)

The DCP was extended last year to provide support of \$1 million each to all 18 councils in the Parkes electorate including Warren, as well as the Unincorporated Area.

The DCP - Extension is targeted at projects that stimulate local community spending by using local resources, businesses, suppliers and workers, or provide long-lasting benefits for communities and agricultural industries.

Minister for Regional Services, Local Government and Decentralisation Bridget McKenzie said despite the impact of natural disasters, rural and regional Australia continues to punch above its weight in the nation's economy.

“We know when our regions are strong so is our nation,” Minister McKenzie said.

“With regional Australia accounting for around two-thirds of our exports and employing hundreds of thousands of Australians, supporting these communities now is a small price to pay to ensure we keep the economy growing.”

Funding is available to eligible councils for local infrastructure projects and other drought-relief activities. Project funding is intended to provide short-term support, including by boosting local employment and procurement, and addressing social and community needs. For details on the DCP – Extension see <https://www.business.gov.au/assistance/drought-communities-programme>

Further updates on other successful council projects in the Parkes electorate will be made in the near future.

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