



Bryce MACDONALD
LNP Candidate for **Kennedy**



Submission to the Western Queensland Alliance of Councils

I was born and raised in the sugar and banana farming town of Tully. After completing my secondary schooling, I completed a Heavy and Commercial Vehicle Mechanic apprenticeship in Tully. After a period working as both a haul-out operator during the harvesting season and as a driver in the interstate road transport industry, my brother and I established a family business involving both farming and operating an interstate refrigerated road transport service.

I have worked in the road transport industry for 30 years in both Queensland and Western Australia. I have coordinated large fleets of refrigerated heavy vehicles and managed large numbers of employees. More recently, I was a Councillor and Deputy Mayor of the Cassowary Coast Regional Council and was a member of the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service Advisory Committee. I have also worked with the banana industry through the Panama State Task Force and Regional Working Group.

I currently maintain a connection to the road transport industry working in temporary management roles at several North Queensland depots. I also work as an agronomic sales representative and a Director and Chair of Tully CANEGROWERS. This is in addition to continuing to operate my own cane and paw-paw farm near Tully. I am also a qualified Justice of the Peace. I have a strong work ethic and have demonstrated a commitment to community leadership and service.

I am standing as the Liberal Nationals Party (LNP) candidate in Kennedy to be a strong voice for the people and communities of Kennedy, working for you as a member of the Morrison Joyce Coalition Government.

This election provides a clear choice, with real consequences for Australia – and real consequences for our communities in regional Queensland.

The pandemic has been very tough for our country. However, on every measure – economic growth, jobs growth, debt levels, fatality rates or vaccine rates – Australia's recovery is leading the world.

The Treasury predicted unemployment could reach 15 per cent. In February it fell to just 4 per cent, the equal lowest in 48 years.

The recent Budget delivered by the Morrison Joyce Government included the biggest turnaround in our nation's finances in over 70 years. Australia is one of a small number of countries to maintain a AAA credit rating from all three major ratings agencies.

This is important because the Government's strong economic management has enabled the Coalition to deliver so much for regional Queensland to build a stronger future.

The Hon. David Littleproud MP, Deputy Leader of the Nationals and Member for Maranoa, has outlined many of the practical projects he has secured in the Western Queensland Alliance of Councils areas since 2016.

This strong record of achievement has only been possible because of the Coalition's work to keep the economy strong and our belief in the importance of regional Queensland.

By contrast, Labor has no economic plan for the nation. Over the last 30 years, Labor governments have, on average, delivered higher unemployment, higher interest rates, higher electricity prices, and not a single balanced budget.

Labor can't say how they will pay for their promises and Mr Albanese has never held a financial portfolio. If Labor cannot pay for their promises, western Queenslanders know where the pain will be felt.

Mr Albanese has never held a national security portfolio and he was part of a government that cut Defence spending to the lowest level since 1938, as a proportion of GDP.

On major policy issues, like taxes and mining and energy, he flip-flops. He would be too weak to stand up to the Greens.

If regional voters do not want to see a Labor government elected – one which doesn't have a plan for western Queensland – a vote for the Coalition is the only option.

Doing more for Queensland and Australia: A Western Queensland productivity partnership, industry and infrastructure investment, and innovation

As part of the Morrison Joyce Government's plan for a stronger future, the Coalition is delivering a \$120 billion 10-year infrastructure investment pipeline. This investment will upgrade essential roads and community infrastructure in regional communities, helping to drive the growth of regional Australia.

Weather radars are important to improve weather forecasting to help farmers plan and as early warning systems to prepare for and manage storms. This is why the Government has invested in the network delivering eight (8) new radars (including four in Queensland) and upgrading 46 radars across the country – with the new Greenvale weather radar now operational.

The Coalition has increased investment in fixing local roads and infrastructure. As part of the Local and State Government Road Safety Package announced in the 2019-20 Budget, the Government committed an additional \$100 million per year to the Roads to Recovery program. The Government is investing \$5.8 billion in the Roads of Strategic Importance initiative, extended the Northern Australia Roads Program by committing a further \$380 million in the 2022-23 budget and has delivered \$3 billion under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program as part of our strong support for local government and communities.

The Coalition continues to invest in the growth and development of northern Australia with the Our North, Our Future initiative and continued delivery of the \$7 billion Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF), which supports infrastructure projects in key sectors including airports, ports, rail, agriculture, water, resources, energy, telecommunications, manufacturing, and social infrastructure. The NAIF has already supported more than 32 investments totalling almost \$3.5 billion which is expected to generate around \$27 billion in economic benefit and over 13,000 jobs.

The Coalition is backing our tourism businesses to recover strongly from the pandemic, delivering economic growth and more jobs to our regions. The Coalition Government has committed \$75 million for Round 3 of the \$258 million Consumer Travel Support Program to support travel agents and tour service providers and \$60 million to accelerate international tourist and backpacker arrivals.

Move to more in Western Queensland: Re-invigorating regionalism and supporting regional housing solutions.

The Australian Government has announced a \$2 billion Regional Accelerator Program (RAP) to target investments to further grow Australia's regional communities. This program is about backing in regions with high growth potential to enable them to meet their strategic ambitions. A centrepiece of the RAP is the \$500 million Regionalisation Fund which will provide grants for transformational projects to support long term economic growth and job creation in the regions.

The Coalition Government will build on the success of the Home Guarantee Scheme as a targeted and cost-effective measure to support home ownership and new housing. In just two years, the scheme has already helped almost 60,000 Australians to buy their own homes. A re-elected Coalition Government will expand support for first home buyers by more than tripling the number of low-deposit guarantees to buy a home (with as little as 5 per cent deposit) to 35,000 guarantees each financial year.

Further, the Coalition will support regional home ownership in a way that encourages new housing supply to reduce housing affordability pressures and retain talent and skills in the regions in support of the Government's regionalisation agenda. A re-elected Coalition Government will establish the Regional Home Guarantee to incentivise the purchase or construction of homes in regional areas by providing 10,000 low-deposit guarantees (with a deposit as low as 5 per cent) each

financial year for those moving to, or within, regional areas, including non-first home buyers and permanent residents commencing 1 October 2022.

A re-elected Coalition Government will continue to deliver lower taxes for small business, building on our record of cutting the company tax rate for businesses with a turnover less than \$50 million to 25 per cent, the lowest rate in 50 years. The Government's small business tax relief is supporting 3.6 million small businesses employing nearly 8 million people across the nation.

To unlock investment, the Coalition has expanded the successful Instant Asset Write Off. Over 99 per cent of businesses are able to write off the full value of any eligible asset they purchase for their business. This will be available for small, medium and larger businesses with a turnover of up to \$5 billion until June 2023. Businesses with a turnover of less than \$50 million can now access a 20 per cent bonus tax deduction on the costs of external training for employees (until 30 June 2024), and a 20 per cent bonus tax deduction on investing in new technology (up to \$100,000 per year) like cloud computing, e-Invoicing, cyber security and web design (until 30 June 2023).

Growing More for You: Reducing green and red tape, caring for the environment, and providing safe and secure water supplies

The Morrison Joyce Government is investing \$49.1 million through the Supporting Communities Manage Pest Animals and Weeds Program to deliver better solutions to combat established pest animals and weeds, which pose a significant threat to Australian primary production, the environment and Australia's biodiversity.

The Coalition will continue to work with land managers, local NRM groups and Indigenous rangers to tackle pests and weeds on-the-ground and support research into new and innovative measures. This includes targeting priority pest species.

The Coalition is delivering the National Landcare Program, supported by an investment of \$1.1 million over the current round, which supports practical on the ground environmental action while supporting jobs and productivity in the agriculture sector.

Under the Emissions Reduction Fund \$2.2 billion has been committed to rural and regional areas. The Government is developing a new integrated farm method under the Emissions Reduction Fund in 2022, which will allow separate land-based carbon reduction activities to be combined or stacked on the same land. The Government is also working to make it easier and more straight forward for individuals, farmers, and small businesses to participate in the carbon market.

The Coalition Government is investing \$8.9 billion in building the dams and water infrastructure that will drive economic growth and opportunity across regional Australia. New and expanded water infrastructure will open up new agricultural export opportunities across northern Australia and safeguard the region's long term water security for families and small business.

Significant investments include:

- \$5.4 billion to build the Hells Gates Dam, subject to completion of the final stage of the business case.
- \$600 million for Paradise Dam improvement, Queensland.
- \$483 million to build the Urannah Dam, pending demonstration of value for money and sufficient public benefit for investment.
- \$80 million to construct the 100 km Bowen underground pipeline linking the Burdekin River to Bowen, enabling irrigation of up to 40,000 hectares of agricultural land

Transporting More for You: Investing in our regional roads and rail

The Morrison Joyce Government is investing \$5.8 billion in the Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) initiative to help connect regional businesses to local and international markets, and better connect regional communities as part of our record \$120 billion ten-year infrastructure investment program.

The Coalition is providing \$3.3 billion in the 2022-23 Federal Budget to fund priority road and rail infrastructure projects in Queensland. This takes the Government's total commitment to transport infrastructure in Queensland to over \$35.9 billion since 2013-14.

This includes funding over \$1 billion to build the Outback Way of which \$678 million to seal a further 1,000 km of road was delivered in the budget. On 14 March 2022 the Deputy Prime Minister announced another \$40 million over four years for the Bridges Renewal Program.

Connecting to You: Backing our digital connectivity blueprint and supporting digital by default

The Morrison Joyce Government firmly believes all Australians deserve access to fast and reliable telecommunications services, regardless of where they live.

The Coalition Government has invested \$380 million (GST excl.) under the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across regional Australia, with more than 1,300 new mobile base stations funded, with over 1,000 on air.

By contrast, Labor never delivered a single mobile blackspot tower when last in government.

In the 2022-23 Budget, the Coalition has invested \$1.3 billion in regional Australia's telecommunications to assist regional communities and address the recommendations of the Review. This commitment includes \$811.8 million under the Connecting Regional Australia initiative, which is a large-scale fund enabling strategic investment in digital infrastructure and skills. It not only builds on, but greatly expands on the Government's highly successful Mobile Black Spot and Regional Connectivity programs.

This initiative will:

- Ensure up to 8,000 km of new open-access mobile coverage on regional roads and adjacent premises, businesses and tourist hotspots;
- Deliver targeted improvements to digital connectivity;
- Improve telecommunications asset resilience against natural disasters;
- Support affordability; and
- Increase indigenous connectivity.

The Government is also investing \$480 million to support upgrades to the NBN Co's fixed wireless network to increase coverage and speed and enabling additional data and more reliable services for satellite users. This investment will enable up to 1 million regional and remote households and businesses to access better quality, more reliable internet coverage.

Regards,



Bryce Macdonald