



11 MARCH 2022

WQAC2022 Assembly Communique

“Out West Where the Stars are Brightest” was the theme of the 2022 Western Queensland Alliance of Councils (WQAC) Assembly where a record 205 delegates, sponsors, government and industry participants convened at the Charleville Town Hall from Wednesday 9th to Friday 11th March.

Officially opened by the Hon Dr Steven Miles MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure, the Deputy Premier congratulated WQAC on its collaborative approach, focused agenda and resolve to tackle the most pressing issues for Western Queensland. In recognition of our efforts, the Deputy Premier announced a partnership agreement with WQAC to financially support the development of Local Housing Action Plans as part of WQAC’s approach to address the housing challenges in Western Queensland.

The predominant focus of the Assembly was the forthcoming Federal Election where participants engaged with the Hon David Littleproud MP, Member for Maranoa, Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia and Deputy Leader of the National Party and Senator the Hon James McGrath, Senator for Queensland, Deputy Government Whip in the Senate on key issues critical to the further development and growth of Western Queensland. Minister Littleproud committed a re-elected Liberal-National Government to the continuation of existing local government funding programs for the regions; the continuation of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program and his desire to obtain veto powers over the granting of new carbon farming projects.

Minister Littleproud committed the National Party to continue pursuing Zonal Taxation Reform and the payment of the HELP debt for graduate doctors and nurses who commit to work in rural and remote Australia. Senator McGrath highlighted the uncertainty and impacts of the current geo-political upheaval in Europe and Russian attacks on Ukraine, which would see increases in the cost of living in Australia.