

The Hon. Mark COULTON MP

NATIONALS FEDERAL MEMBER FOR PARKES

MINISTER FOR REGIONAL HEALTH, REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Media Release



Coolah reaps benefits of local roads cash injection

28 September 2020

A project to construct new pedestrian kerb access ramps in Coolah is just one of many in the Warrumbungle Shire being funded by the Federal Government's new Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program.

The Program will see in excess of \$1,553,000 injected into the Warrumbungle Shire to improve local infrastructure, and support jobs and the local economy.

Federal Member for Parkes Mark Coulton was joined by Warrumbungle Shire Council Mayor Ambrose Doolan, General Manager Roger Bailey and Cr Anne-Louise Capel in Coolah today to inspect one of the locations for the ramps, which will be funded with \$20,000 under the Program.

"I am so pleased that all 15 of Warrumbungle Shire Council's proposed local projects have been approved under the LRCI Program, which comes to a total of more than \$1.5 million in funding," Mr Coulton said.

"The first instalment payment of 50 per cent of total allocation has now been paid to Council so that work can commence on these projects right away.

"This investment will improve local roads and provide for new and upgraded amenities right across the Warrumbungle Shire.

"Accelerating local infrastructure projects is incredibly important for supporting jobs and the local economy in the Parkes electorate."

Other projects being funded in the Coolah area include an upgrade to the drainage infrastructure on Moorefield Road approximately 20 kilometres south of town, as well as pavement rehabilitation to strengthen Tongy Lane approximately 15 kilometres south-east of town.

Mr Coulton said the new Program, announced in May, is based on the successful Roads to Recovery program, enabling local councils to deliver priority projects with a focus on upgrades and maintenance to roads and community infrastructure.

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“Every single job and construction business we support makes a huge difference in our local communities, now and as we navigate out of the coronavirus pandemic,” he said.

Warrumbungle Shire Council Mayor Ambrose Doolan said the LRCI Program funding had been welcomed by Council.

“This funding will allow Council to upgrade to some of our road networks and improve accessibility of community facilities,” Cr Doolan said.

“The community infrastructure projects which have been funded under this Program will see improvements to community accessibility in each town, with the construction of pedestrian kerb access ramps across our Shire.

“On behalf of Council and our community members, I would like to thank the Federal Government for this funding, and for giving us the opportunity to make a move on these important projects.”

The investment will support local jobs and businesses, and boost local economies struggling with the effects of COVID-19.

Allocations under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure programs can be found at https://investment.infrastructure.gov.au/infrastructure_investment

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Background:

- More than \$21 million in funding will support councils in the Parkes electorate as part of the LRCI Program. Guidelines for the Program are being provided directly to local governments by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications.

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- Local road projects to be delivered under the Program include, but are not limited to, constructing or improving bridges and tunnels, street lighting, and heavy vehicle facilities such as rest areas.
- A broad range of community infrastructure projects will be eligible including new or upgraded bicycle and walking paths, community facilities, and picnic shelters and barbeque facilities at parks.