News Release

Minister Geoff Brock
Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Local Government

Thursday, 27 November 2014

State Government grant to reduce flood threat in Laura

Regional Development Minister, Geoff Brock today announced a State Government grant of more than $333,000 aimed at reducing the threat of flooding in Laura.

Mr Brock said flooding in the town has been an issue for many years due to the low lying areas in the main street which had adversely affected many local businesses.

"This funding of $333,869 from the enhanced $15 million a year Regional Development Fund will contribute to the construction of a flood mitigation system designed to divert a significant portion of floodwater from the town.

"This diversion system will relieve the fear of flooding having an impact on Laura's businesses, including the caravan park, as well as improving road safety for locals and travellers and for vehicle parking in the town.

"The project undertaken through the Community Infrastructure Program will also provide protection for tourist-friendly areas, such as the local parklands.

"The construction project will create up to 11 jobs.

"Long term, the reduced risk of flooding in Laura's CBD will provide confidence to investors to boost their businesses and to operators who have felt restricted in the past due to concerns over potential weather damage," Mr Brock said.

Northern Areas Council Mayor, Denis Clark said the Regional Development Fund grant meant that Council could confidently begin work on the project in the new year.

"This project will bring a renewed confidence to Laura in the future," Mayor Clark said.

"Past floods have had significant impact on traders, residents and visitors, both immediate and long term due to damage and the costs associated with cleaning up, repairs and replacement, and lost income.

"As part of this project, the Council will be installing stormwater drainage and constructing new kerbing and edge sealing on roads through the town," Mayor Clark said.