



Scott Barrett MLC

Member of the Legislative Council

Fortnightly Wrap: January 23 – February 5

Happy Australia Day! I hope you had a lovely day shared with family and friends.

Like many households across the State, ours was dominated by the return to school. Amongst all the excitement surrounding this, the NSW Government's \$150 worth of "Back to School Vouchers" have been an outstanding relief for parents across our regions. For school shoes and uniforms, pens and books and backpacks, this voucher has meant the difference between some kids having these things or having to go without.

If you know any parents, make sure they have accessed this great program, just one of the game changing cost saving measures we have introduced as a Government, and the type of programs at risk if we don't win the March election.



Former Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce visited Orange in support of the election campaign and we had a great roll out of members and supporters to hear him and local candidate Tony Mileto speak at a lunch time event in town.

This was followed by a similar event in Forbes, where we were also joined by another former Deputy PM in Michael McCormack. Again, a great roll up to hear from wonderful speakers about the National Party and why we have been able to deliver so much for regional NSW.

While he was here, I had Barnaby Joyce along with Tony, call into Eugowra to meet with a couple of key community leaders. While we didn't splash this all over social media, it was a great opportunity for Barnaby to hear first hand how things were going since the floods and also for this community to know we have people in Canberra, as well as Macquarie Street, who are listening to their concerns and genuinely looking for outcomes for them.

Moving further north to the seat of Upper Hunter, we have a wonderful local member in Dave Layzell. It was great to be able to spend a couple of days with Dave and help him deliver some great wins to his local community.

Winners in this visit included the Clarence Town Cobras rugby league side and other users of the local sporting fields who will benefit from upgrades to their drainage and have the grounds levelled. We visited Gloucester Public School to see their Reconciliation Peace Park made possible by Dave and the Nationals and had a good morning with the Gloucester Worimi First Peoples Aboriginal Corporation chatting about the great things this group is doing in their community. We were able to give a boost to this group through announcing grants for the purchase of two vehicles to be used to access ongoing social, health and education programs.

Once again these are things we as Nationals are able to secure for our communities and organisations as part of the Government.



Gloucester wasn't the only winner of late with the Deputy Premier visiting Orange on Friday with some exciting news. There was money for the development of a walk and cycle trail linking wineries and specialist food producers in the region as well as grants to encourage farmers to adopt Agtech to boost their productivity and improve resource management, including water efficiency and drought preparedness.

Causing huge excitement in Orange was the \$34.5 million additional funding allocated to the Orange Sports Complex. This will ensure the completion of this project to a standard comparable to anywhere in the country. A huge win to the people of Orange and the central west and a reward for the hard work of the hundreds of volunteers in the region who deserve such a facility.

Another of the investments the Nationals have made in regional NSW, making it the best place to live, work and raise a family.

For previous fortnightly updates, click [here](#).

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for Regional NSW

