



# Scott Barrett MLC

Member of the Legislative Council

## Fortnightly Wrap: September 19 – October 2

We had a shortened Parliamentary sitting week due to the Day of Mourning for the loss of Queen Elizabeth II and during that week, many, including myself, took the opportunity to speak to a motion of condolence in relation to the late Monarch. I touched on the impact the Queen had on regional NSW, as well as some personal family encounters which included my grandmother travelling a couple of hours in the back of a truck to see the Royal visit to Dubbo 1954.

One of the highlights of the week was a meeting with Riding for the Disabled. This followed on from a visit to the Orange Branch and seeing first-hand the amazing work they are doing. Next month RDA NSW will celebrate its 50th anniversary, itself an achievement to be proud of, let alone all they have achieved in those 50 years. I look forward to working more with this organisation and congratulate them on this milestone.



Some of the great work of RDA Orange.

On the committee front, I have been involved in an inquiry into the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (Culture is Identity) Bill 2022, a Private Member's Bill introduced in the Legislative Council by Reverend the Hon Fred Nile. In our first of two hearings, we heard from a range of stakeholders, including Aboriginal peak organisations, such as the NSW Aboriginal Land Council, the NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Regional Alliances, the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee and the Native Title Service Provider for New South Wales. There's another hearing day next week.

This fortnight was closed out by the October long weekend – a great opportunity to get out and about and experience some of what regional NSW has to offer: an opportunity I took along with my family.

First stop was the inaugural Dolly Parton Festival in Narromine. A fantastic event celebrating all that is Dolly. Congratulations must go to the organisers who not only put on an event that was a lot of fun, but also attracted many people into Narromine, which has many benefits for the town.



Enjoying the Dolly Parton festival with Member for Dubbo, Dugald Saunders.



This festival is one of many supported by the NSW Government through the Reconnecting Regional NSW – Community Events Program aimed at aiding local economic recovery as well as renewing social connections. Congratulations must also go to the Member for Dubbo Dugald Saunders who has been a great advocate for this event and instrumental in getting it off the ground. I strongly recommend people stick this one in the diaries for next year.

We also went across to Nyngan to a race meet, incredibly put on with little notice to fill a void left by a few meets that have been cancelled in recent times due to wet weather. It was a great day out in Nyngan and a credit to all those involved in putting it together from the organisers through to the horse owners, trainers and jockeys.



**A great day out at the Nyngan Races.**

While in Nyngan, we stopped and had a look at some of the flood waters and chatted to some of those affected. It looks like a bit more wet weather ahead so please stay safe and here's hoping there's not too much damage.



**Things are very wet across Western NSW.**

**Scott Barrett** Member of the Legislative Council

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*for Regional NSW*

