

Travelling the Tablelands

with


Brendan Moylan MP

MEMBER FOR NORTHERN TABLELANDS



State budget delivers mixed bag

The 2026-27 Budget presented a mixed picture for the Northern Tablelands and wider regional NSW. There are some positives to come out of it but there are definite shortfalls in other areas.

The continued redevelopment of the Moree and Glen Innes hospitals has been secured with funding allocated. The construction of Moree hospital should be completed by early next year and work at Glen Innes should start to ramp up this year. Now we need the government to commit to staffing our hospitals adequately.

Inverell will receive a new public preschool which will enter the planning stage this year, and the completion of the new preschools at Warialda and Toomelah has been secured.

There's also been \$100 million allocated for roads in addition to the usual road maintenance budget, \$5.5 million for the Pindari Dam cold water pollution project, \$6 million for social housing and continued funding secured for the Moree Special Activation Precinct.

What's missing



Although there are positives in the budget, crime and agriculture missed out with \$157 million cut from Local Land Services and the Rural Assistance Authority. Only \$16.3 million has been allocated for feral pig control and pest management which is nowhere near enough to put a dent in the numbers.

The cattle tick program was allocated \$7 million which falls short of what is needed and operators will continue to shoulder the costs of controlling the spread of the parasite. The varroa mite incursion on bees is escalating rapidly and there was no mention of a concentrated control program to stop the spread.

Nearly half of NSW is drought affected but the State Government has again failed to provide support to farmers.



Working for our communities



\$175,596 to expand Deano's Smoked Trout Farm.



\$4,500 for Armidale Athletics to buy equipment



Walcha Sports Club now has a defibrillator



\$500,000 for upgrades to the Inverell Library



\$300,000 for the outdoor sports courts at Macintyre High School



Glen Innes Library secures **\$500,000** for upgrades

What's happening in Parliament?



Government ignores 22,000 petitioners

Hundreds of farmers from Walcha and the Upper Hunter made their way to Macquarie Street last month for the debate on a petition to reject the new transmission line corridor Walcha to Bayswater. The corridor travels through prime agricultural land and farms which have been in families for generations.

I presented the petition to Parliament and spoke on behalf of the 22,000 people who signed it. Bizarrely, the NSW Government only allowed one of their members to speak, and the rest of the Government failed to show up to the chamber. The people who travelled seven hours to pack the gallery and witness the debate should have been treated with more respect than what was shown that day.

This proposed transmission route is a complete mess, it completely ignores the rights of the landholders it will impact and unfortunately the Premier failed to give them the time of day.



Mr Brendan Moylan (NAT)
Member for Northern Tablelands



New gun laws backfire

Since the new state gun laws were hurried through Parliament in December 2025, I have been speaking to gun club members and store owners, sporting shooters, farmers, and professional shooters who are directly affected.

Most gun store owners are reporting the effects have been incredibly detrimental to their business. Applications for firearms licenses have increased but the sales are down and people dealing with NSW Firearms Registry are reporting unacceptable delays. I have said all along, these laws are poorly drafted, policy-on-the-run.

They penalise the wrong people. They penalise people who need firearms for their business. They penalise honest, hardworking firearms owners and licence holders that had nothing to do with the incident at Bondi. As the regulations come online, we are going to see more kickbacks from regional New South Wales over these poorly conceived laws.



No regard for landholders' rights

In May I contributed to the debate for the *Water Management Amendment (Easements for Inundation) Bill 2026*. Again, the State Government has failed to consult with people on the ground who are directly affected by this legislation.

The amendment enables government water authorities to legally flood private land without compensation for any damage caused.

This reinforces a pattern of decision-making where regional communities are expected to accept outcomes after the fact, rather than being genuinely involved from the start. This legislation erodes the property rights of NSW landholders, causing a further breakdown in trust with regional communities.





Reliance on temporary staff grows



I will continue to badger the State Government's response to healthcare in the Northern Tablelands with their refusal to answer my questions regarding expenditure on locum doctors in hospitals.

The government continues to show how out of touch they are with healthcare in regional NSW, instead refusing to answer question deflecting instead to claims that providing figures could "distort the locum labour market" and "affect future commercial negotiations".

All evidence suggests the reliance on locums is growing which means costs are increasing. Regional communities in NSW deserve transparency on how their healthcare services are running. We deserve to know if using locums to fill gaps in healthcare it is sustainable long-term or whether the government has any real plans to fix workforce problems.



Pay them what they deserve

Community preschool teachers gathered in front of Parliament House recently to rally for pay parity with their government-employed counterparts. These preschool workers have been asking for recognition and support for the work they do for a long time and, in February, the Fair Work Commission made a recommendation to increase their pay.

The NSW Government needs to step up and support the delivery of better pay for these workers. Unfortunately, more and more teachers are leaving the profession and taking up work elsewhere due to the current pay conditions. We need to see our community preschool workers paid accordingly so they will stay in their jobs and in our towns.



Nurse practitioner consultation

It's good to see NSW Health has sought feedback on expanding the legislative recognition of nurse practitioners in NSW. Nurse practitioners are registered nurses with additional training, qualifications, and expertise. They can diagnose patients, request and interpret tests, prescribe medications and therapies, and receive and make referrals to other health practitioners.

Current legislation in NSW does not recognise the role and scope of nurse practitioners, nor does it extend the powers, functions and obligations afforded to medical practitioners. This means nurse practitioners may be prevented from performing certain functions, despite having the necessary training, education, and clinical experience.



Work begins on Waterfall Way

After the Member for Oxley Michael Kemp and I put pressure on the NSW Government to come up with a long-term solution for Waterfall Way, which closes regularly due to landslips, a start date on the remediation work is now scheduled to begin in early August. It is expected to take between six and eight months to complete.

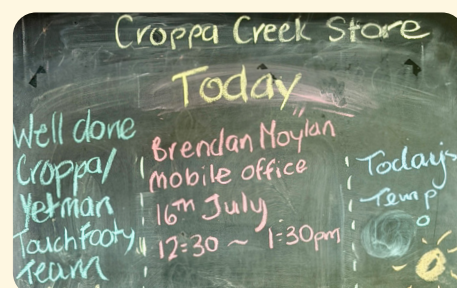
The project will improve flood resilience, stabilise slopes, and deliver important safety upgrades along the highway. In addition, alternate routes via Summervilles and Gordonville Roads will receive road widening, resurfacing, drainage improvements, and the installation of roadside safety barriers.



Mobile office heading your way

I have enjoyed catching up with constituents at my mobile offices in Nowendoc, Yetman, and Croppa Creek. I am grateful to those people who took the time to drop in and see me. It's important that all communities, no matter the size, get a chance to have their say.

My next mobile office will be at Ebor on 29 August and the Member for Clarence, Richie Williamson will be joining me at the Ebor Hotel at 3pm for an informal gathering for locals keen to share their stories and concerns.



Celebrating our communities



A great turnout for Uralla's NAIDOC celebrations.



A grand re-opening of the Armidale Folk Museum.



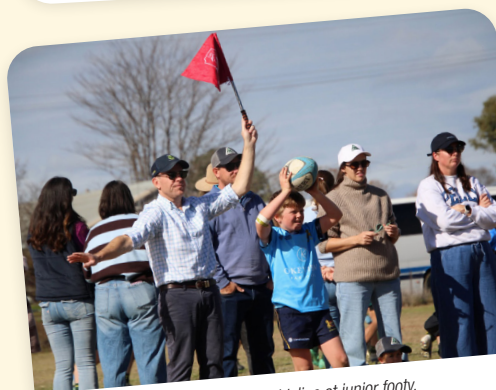
Success at Guyra's first Thriftmas in July.



A productive Inverell Health Forum meeting.



Celebrating 90 years of 2NZ.



Helping out on the sideline at junior footy.



Enjoying the Glen Innes Celtic Festival.



Judging at the Bingara Orange Picking ceremony.



Dympna Brazier celebrates her 100 years.



Robyn James celebrates 31 years at Moree Preschool.



Checking out what's on offer at the Uralla Street Store.

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THE NATIONALS
for Regional NSW