

Media Statement

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Landry ticks off promise to support Sarina and West Mackay with federal office

Hard-working Federal Member for Capricornia Michelle Landry has ticked off another election promise to support residents in the Sarina and West Mackay district by officially opening a new Sarina office.

The shop-front, believed to be the first Federal MPs office to be based in the town, is located at the Sarina Beach Shopping Centre.

Ms Landry promised to establish a second Capricornia electorate office outside Rockhampton during the last election campaign – now proving she is listening and delivering to northern constituents.

"The northern part of Capricornia around Sarina, west Mackay and the Pioneer Valley is an important area for the state. I have been fighting for many things in this area in the 20 months since taking office - including a better deal for our sugar sector in their marketing row with Wilmar and on the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade deal currently being negotiated," Ms Landry said.

The feisty MP was among a core group federal MPs who threatened not to support the TPP until a better deal was struck for local cane growers.*

Another significant achievement for northern Capricornia was securing a new mobile phone base tower to improve mobile communication at Gargett in the Pioneer Valley.

Federal Senators James McGrath and Matthew Canavan joined her to launch her Sarina office.

"Capricornia is an enormous area with a land mass of 91,490 square kilometres and the northern part of our electorate is an important economic hub taking in West Mackay, Sarina, the beautiful Pioneer Valley area and further inland to Nebo and the Central Queensland coalfields," Ms Landry said.

"In the Sarina area, there is significant economic activity from the coal port terminals and our sugar industry. And I am fighting for both sectors so they can strengthen and return more jobs to the region."

When Ms Landry was first elected she made the effort to visit key industries in the Sarina-West Mackay area where some industry leaders told her they had not seen the previous Labor Federal Member for at least six years.

Sugar industry leader Kev Borg, Chair of Canegrowers Mackay, said it was a boost to Sarina to have a new federal electorate office.

"It's important as it shows that Michelle is really genuine in listening, working-hard and delivering for our region. She is very accessible as our federal member and visits here regularly," Mr Borg said.

Canegrowers Mackay CEO Kerry Latter said: "Michelle Landry is doer, not a spruiker. Cane growers in Mackay and Plane Creek are very appreciative of the efforts and support Michelle has given to our region. She is very approachable and willing to listen and understand our needs."

Ms Landry has voiced continual support for future water infrastructure projects in the form of the longer term Connors (between Sarina and Moranbah) and Urranah Dams.

The MP also supports a push for a major community sports precinct at Mackay's CQUniversity campus which Mackay Regional Mayor Deidre Comerford describes as a project of significance for surrounding suburbs that fall inside the Capricornia electorate.

Some of Michelle's list of achievements for northern Capricornia

In the past year:

- I continued to fight for our local sugar industry as a member of the Federal Sugar Industry Taskforce
- Lobbied for a good deal for Mum and Dad small business owners and farmers in the Federal budget in the form of generous fast-tracked depreciation and tax cuts
- Successfully lobbied for **\$166 million** of Federal funds to fix up the Eton Range section of the notorious Peak Downs Highway
- Announced **\$35 million** to replace four old bridges on the Peak Downs Highway
- Completed **\$8.5 million** of new overtaking lanes on the Bruce Highway, under Federal funding, between Koumala and Sarina to make the highway safer
- Provided a \$21,416 Federal grant to Sarina RSL sub branch's book committee for a new local history book to mark the Centenary of Anzac. Called 'More Than Just a Name', the book depicts the lives and service history of men and women who served in World War 1 from the Sarina region
- The Federal Government contributed \$500,000 towards the newly revamped \$825,000 Edward Lloyd Park near Marian. It's a great stop for locals and travellers.
- I had the recent pleasure of opening the Sarina Art Extravaganza on behalf of Federal Arts Minister Senator George Brandis
- Up to 10 small Capricornia towns including **Sarina, Marian, Glenden, Dysart** and **Hay Point** will now find it easier to attract GPs thanks to an overhaul of the Federal Government's GP Rural Incentives Program.
- **Local food industries have also been highlighted at Parliament House. Matt West, president of the Australian Prawn Farmers Association, brought his fresh prawns from his farm near Ilbilbie south of Koumala, as part of the Association's prawn lunch to raise awareness about industry issues.**
- In other news Marian State School and Sarina State High School were recognised by the Federal Government for taking action in their schoolyards to help protect the Great Barrier Reef. Both received cash grants under the Reef Guardian Schools Program.

* TPP involves trade deals between 12 countries - Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Canada, Japan, Mexico, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States, and Vietnam - representing almost 40% of the global economy.

Contact: Christopher Lawson – (07) 4922 6604. **Mobile:** 0418 908 159