



Media Release

17 January 2020

GRANT MONIES & OFFERS OF HELP FLOW INTO TENTERFIELD

Hot on the heels of the lightning visit to Steinbrook Hall by mining magnate and philanthropist Andrew "Twiggy" Forrest last Friday (10 January), this week saw a number of groups arriving in town offering support to the Tenterfield Shire community and assistance with recovery from the nightmare of the ongoing drought and bushfires and resultant water quality issues.

On Tuesday, (14 January), our local State Member, Janelle Saffin MP, together with Yasmin Catley MP (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) and Trish Doyle MP (NSW Shadow Minister for Emergency Services), called in at Drake before spending time in Tenterfield, in both instances thanking RFS volunteers and other community members for their resilience, leadership and plain hard work during the fire emergencies of February and September 2019.

Thursday (16 January) proved to be an important day for the Tenterfield Show Society, with The Hon Adam Marshall MP announcing a NSW Government sponsored grant of \$25,000 for a new event to be held during the year.

The *'Lift the Country Spirit Music Event'*, will feature country musicians and it is hoped that the opportunity to relax and connect will offer everyone in the community a ray of hope for recovery from the recent horrific events. Not only to be used to attract headline acts, the funding will also help in getting as many people as possible from throughout the Shire, to the event.

In addition, Adam announced that the Primary Health Network has donated \$37,000 to the Tenterfield Show Society to allow for free admission and other activities at the upcoming Tenterfield Show.

On Thursday, Tenterfield also received a visit from the Coordinator-General of the National Drought & Flood Agency, Mr Shane Stone and members of his staff.

The National Drought & Flood Agency was formed last year following the devastating floods in far north Queensland. At that time it was the North Queensland Livestock Industry Recovery Agency but in December, the Prime Minister expanded the Agency's responsibilities to include drought at a national level.

The Mayor, Councillors, Council staff and members from the agricultural and business communities met with the Co-ordinator-General to discuss response measures that are working well and those that need improvement, as well as ideas about innovative practices that are being used and hear local ideas for longer-term projects to help manage the impacts of future droughts when they occur.

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“Although we are getting some rainfall in parts of our Shire and Tenterfield currently is back to looking green and verdant, there are many areas that are still suffering and I note here that Urbenville has just gone to Level 4 Water Restrictions which is unheard of in that area,” said Mayor Peter Petty.

“On behalf of Council, I thank those organisations that are working for the benefit of not only our community, but all those other towns, villages and localities throughout NSW and Victoria who are now dealing with their own catastrophe. Our thoughts and prayers go out to those communities and to the wonderful volunteers who just keep on giving”, the Mayor added.



L to R: Mayor Peter Petty, Robyn Murray, Matthew Duff, Kelly Foran, NSW Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW Hon Adam Marshall MP, Cheyenne Moody, and Kim Rhodes at the announcement of \$25,000 funding for the Tenterfield Show Society's Lift the Country Spirits Musical Event