

## Media Release

29 May 2017

### State Government drought funding provides a welcome boost for Central West communities

Funding provided by the Queensland State Governments Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, through their 2017 drought support package is supporting 131 events and activities, as well as drought affected people in need, throughout the seven council regions of Central Western Qld.

The Central Western Queensland Remote Area Planning and Development Board (RAPAD) successfully applied for the funding at the start of 2017, and this funding was then distributed to its member councils.

\$82500.00 was provided to each of the seven Central Western Qld councils which is for the delivery of a range of local community events and activities that contribute to connectedness, social well-being and increase access to support services. Three councils received an additional \$27500.00 each, under the Flexible Financial Hardship component of the program.

David Arnold, CEO of RAPAD, said that councils are the best placed to understand the needs of their local communities, and they also have the mechanisms in place to fairly assess and allocate funds to local groups.

“As a requirement of the funding guidelines, all councils had to submit their proposed activities in March. I’m pleased to report, that thanks to this State Government funding, a range of activities are already occurring while all others are well into their planning stage”, said Mr Arnold.

The number of activities being funded in each council area is:

- Barcaldine – 33
- Blackall-Tambo - 12
- Longreach – 17
- Winton – 29
- Diamantina – 14
- Barcoo – 14
- Boulia – 12

“It’s safe to say with so many events happening across so many towns, the bulk of the Central West population will be touched one way or another by this funding. This is the third year that the State has allocated funds through this program and for this, RAPAD, councils and communities are very grateful” said Mr Arnold.

#### Ends

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