

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

19 June 2018

\$6.48M KOALA PARK CENTREPIECE IN GUNNEDAH BUDGET WINDFALL

Gunnedah's future continues to look bright following significant announcements in the NSW state budget today

Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson said Gunnedah continues to shine in regional NSW and today it was backed by the NSW Governments continued significant financial investment.

"The centre piece is a \$6.48m new generation Koala Park and Education centre a proposal put forward by Gunnedah Shire Council.

"The park would also exhibit other native animals and operate as a small scale wildlife park/native animal hospital. Education and learning would be central to the experience, conveying a message of conservation and raising awareness of the plight of the inland koala. It will create upto 20 jobs and attract 90,000 visitors a year to the Koala capitol. This will continue the legacy of the late wildlife warrior Nancy Small.

"I'm delighted to see that \$3,364,000 for Gunnedah's Police Station in this year's budget to complete \$8.191m project. This will be a state of the art facility to help police drive down crime and keep our communities safe.

"Gunnedah TAFE campus will benefit from the \$813,000 allocated for the refurbishment of the Trades section. This will ensure Gunnedah provides the programs to encourage locals to take up a trade and work locally.

"The construction of the second road-over-rail bridge at Gunnedah is boosted with a \$6,000,000 announced today. It's hoped contractors will be announced within the next months.

"Work on upgrading the Oxley Highway continues with \$3.257m for flood improvements at Hoss Causeway Carroll and work is continuing to flood-proof the highway at Tommy Swamp, west of Carroll.

"Work will continue with the upgrade of Keepit Dam with \$18,062,000 announced today to dovetail with the 96.141 million in last year's budget.

"And just last month I announced \$750,000 in funding to upgrade Gunnedah Hospital's maternity and general wards.

"I'm focussed on delivering for Gunnedah the kind of investment that will build a strong community, supported with the infrastructure to go ahead in leaps and bounds," Mr Anderson concluded.