



Senator the Hon. Bridget McKenzie
Deputy Leader of The Nationals
Minister for Regional Services
Minister for Sport
Minister for Local Government and Decentralisation
Senator for Victoria

INVESTING IN OUR REGIONAL COMMUNITIES MAKES GOOD SENSE

The Liberal-National government understands that an increasing population is one important economic driver. Spreading population growth through regions and matching skills shortages and local value is essential to success.

Deputy Leader of The Nationals, Senator The Hon. Bridget McKenzie said this is why the Nationals have long argued for sensible migration that encourages new migrants with the skills needed and a strategic approach to settle in rural and regional areas, where local jobs are available.

“Rural and regional areas across Australia are vibrant, growing communities looking for new families to join them to take up employment and contribute to the community,” Minister McKenzie said, in the context of Minister Alan Tudge’s speech today.

“Regional Australia is a thriving and diverse network of cities, towns and communities which makes a significant contribution to our national prosperity.

“We know that regional and rural communities will welcome new arrivals from capital cities or across the globe as it is a key driver of economic growth. However, it must be done strategically and sensibly with strong engagement with local communities to ensure local support and strong integration.

“The reality is that the most successful migration strategies are driven by locally-led solutions where communities are open and local jobs are available.

“A successful regional Australia is one that is populated with bright, energetic, hardworking people, irrespective of where they have come from.

“Like the Karin in Nhill and the Sikh community in Coffs Harbor, when done well with community support new migrants provide a great opportunity and economic stimulus to the regions, helping to create more jobs and supporting local businesses.

“The integration works best when these migrants not only fill the skills gaps but get involved in the local footy team and Lions club and contribute to the community.

“As the first-ever Minister for Decentralisation, the Liberal-National government will take a whole-of-government approach to building regions, whether it is through the relocation of government services, or local migration strategies.

“Good economic management is good for the country. When the regions are strong, so too is our nation.”

ENDS

Alexandra Hall | Media Adviser

Office of Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie
Deputy Leader of The Nationals
Minister for Regional Services
Minister for Sport
Minister for Local Government & Decentralisation

Phone 02 6277 7495

Email: alexandra.hall@health.gov.au