



The Hon. John Barilaro MP

Deputy Premier

Minister for Regional New South Wales,

Minister for Skills and Minister for Small Business

19/1#49

Ms Annette Turner
Country Women's Association of NSW
PO Box 222
MASCOT NSW 1460

Dear Annette,

I am writing to you following the publication of the Country Womens' Association State Election 2019 Policy Priorities summary document. I would like to provide you and your members with additional information about the achievements and announcements of the NSW Liberals and Nationals relating to a number of topics within the document, and I would be grateful if you incorporated these into any future version.

QVax onto the PBS – NSW Nationals advocating for Q fever as a National Priority

Minister Hazzard wrote to the Federal Health Minister on 9 June 2017 asking for a national collaborative approach to Q fever research to be undertaken and requesting that Q fever be designated as a priority for the National Health and Medical Research Council.

Attached to the same letter was correspondence the Minister received from the NSW Farmers Association and Norco Co-operative Limited requesting Q fever vaccine be funded by Government. Minister Hazzard referred these to Minister Hunt as vaccine funding is provided by the Federal Government.

Improved nurse to patient ratios

On 17 February, the Liberals & Nationals announced they will deliver 5000 new nurses and midwives over the next four years – the largest workforce boost in the history of Australian healthcare – following extensive consultation with healthcare experts regarding the workforce needed to deliver top quality patient care. Unlike Labor, we will achieve this without taxing farmers on their work vehicles.

Support in principle for improved access to blood for transfusions and emergency supplies

NSW Health has been working to improve the availability of blood and blood products for emergency situations in all parts of the state. Where previously practitioners may have waited many hours for assistance in emergency situations there are now telemedicine services and retrieval teams across NSW ready to respond in a timely fashion.

NSW Health has also reviewed local processes for determining blood stock locations, inventory levels, and the distribution of elective transfusion services. As a result of

this review, they have provided recommendations to each rural Local Health District that will strengthen existing practices.

To further support rural Local Health Districts to optimise approaches to blood inventory management, the Ministry of Health and the Clinical Excellence Commission will convene a cross-LHD working group in early 2019.

Increased funding for reliable mobile coverage and technology for regional schools

Poor mobile coverage remains one of the biggest issues faced on a daily basis for people living in regional NSW. That is why the Nationals in Government will invest \$400 million to supercharge internet reliability and speed and significantly reduce mobile black spots in regional NSW. Our goal is to make NSW black spot free. This will include an investment of \$100 million in regional data centres to improve the speed and reliability of regional internet.

Increased feral pest control and eradication, particularly feral cats and wild dogs

The NSW Liberals and Nationals have announced a \$37.5 million extension to the Wild Dog Exclusion Fence to stop wild dogs entering NSW. This funding will extend the fence by 742 kilometres, increasing production options for graziers in the Western Division and reducing predation from feral pests.

Full classification of deer as a pest animal

The Nationals support the classification of deer as a pest animal. We have undertaken significant work to reduce deer numbers in NSW and will continue to examine how we can reduce red tape around deer management. That's why we have announced the largest, best practice broad scale deer management program ever undertaken in Australia that will occur over the next 8 years in Kosciuszko National Park and adjoining properties.

Compulsory water metering of all water users in the Murray Darling Basin – already our policy

The NSW Nationals have introduced a no meter – no pump rule in NSW, which came into effect on 1 December 2018.

Protection of agricultural land and water from inappropriate coal and coal seam gas

The NSW Nationals have worked hard to protect the State's valuable agricultural land and water, and clean up the mess left behind by Labor on coal seam gas. Our work to introduce the 2014 NSW Gas plan will be strengthened by our announcement of a new independent Agriculture Commissioner, with legislated powers to protect the right to farm in NSW.

The Commissioner will work with the Chief Planner to strengthen standard planning and zoning instruments and review local strategic plans to protect Right to Farm principles, in recognition of the contribution farming makes to local jobs and the broader economy. Three key areas will be priority; reforming planning and zoning to strengthen the platform for farmers in land-use conflicts, supporting the dairy sector and addressing the recent attack on the industry by 'Aussie Farms' group.

Congratulations

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate the CWA for its role, as a part of the Regional, Rural and Remote Communications Coalition, in securing a commitment from Telstra to undertake a dedicated program of work to improve landlines in regional and remote Australia. This is an outstanding result, and will benefit many people living and working in regional NSW.

I am proud of this government's track record delivering for regional NSW. I believe that no other party, and no other potential government, will deliver for regional NSW in the same way that we have.

I look forward to the opportunity to continuing to work with you and your member following the election in the pursuit of a better regional NSW.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Barilaro', written in a cursive style.

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