

7.11.08 Longreach Leader

Liberal Senator tours west

Queensland Liberal Senator, Russell Trood, has called for improved funding for Queensland's regions after visiting the Barcoo and Diamantina Shires last week.

His tour of the outback included visits to resource, health and tourist facilities, cattle stations and he attended a series of community meetings in towns including Stonehenge, Jundah, Windorah and Birdsville.

The meetings reinforced the need for better communications technology, roads, housing and health services, he said.

The rising cost of living, including energy and grocery delivery, were other challenges facing these remote populations.

Senator Trood experienced first hand the poor road conditions in western Queensland, when he travelled the 280km stretch of gravel road between Windorah and Birdsville.

"An all weather bitumen road between these towns would vastly improve



Barcoo Mayor Bruce Scott, Liberal Senator Russell Trood and Diamantina Mayor Robbie Dare at Deon's Lookout near Beloota.

the south west corner's road network, providing a much needed boost to the local economy," he said.

He called for better funding for local government and an end to cost shifting by other levels of government.

"Local government representatives routinely

contend that they are closest to the people but are deprived of the power and resources to respond effectively to these needs," he said.

His visit was jointly organised by Barcoo Mayor, Bruce Scott and Diamantina Mayor, Robbie Dare.