

MEDIA RELEASE



The Hon **David Hawker** MP
Federal Member for Wannon



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HAWKER CONGRATULATES MAIL-TIMES ON 50 GREAT YEARS

Congratulations to the Wimmera Mail Times on 50 great years.

The last half century has seen this region cement itself as one of the premier agricultural areas in Australia, leading the way in cereal cropping. Back when the Wimmera Mail Times was founded half a century ago, this region was also breaking ground in the utilisation of water systems, something the rest of the country has unfortunately been all too slow to follow.

Despite the recent drought, today Horsham is a vibrant regional hub which inspires great community pride. The wider region still revolves around the hum of agricultural life, its influence on the economic, cultural and social development of Horsham is ever present, but today Horsham also thrives off a strong and entrepreneurial small business community which has seen the town through the tough times and enabled it to look to the future with optimism.

Of course, the Wimmera Mail Times has been around to witness and report on this and all of the important developments in Horsham and the wider Wimmera region for half a century.

During this time the Wimmera Mail Times has been an important force in local affairs. As is often the case with local papers, it has been the lifeblood of the community, and has never been afraid to take a strong editorial stand. These characteristics have seen it become one of Australia's largest selling tri-weekly papers.

I congratulate the Wimmera Mail Times on this great milestone and wish everyone celebrating the 50th anniversary all the very best on this significant occasion.

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Media contact: Jane Templeton (03) 5572 1100