

# BUILDING THE ROOKWOOD WEIR

## **Building the Rookwood Weir**

A Shorten Labor Government will boost jobs, agriculture and water security in Central Queensland by ensuring the full \$176 million federal share of funding is provided to the Rookwood Weir project.

The Rookwood Weir which will create more than 100 Queensland jobs in the construction stage alone, and up to 2,100 jobs in an expanded Queensland agriculture industry.

A Shorten Labor Government will partner with the Queensland Labor Government to make sure the Rookwood Weir becomes a reality.

The Rookwood Weir is part of Labor's Plan for Real Jobs in Regional Queensland.

## **Boosting Central Queensland agriculture**

Located 66 kilometres from Rockhampton on the Fitzroy River, the Rookwood Weir project will deliver an extra 76,000 million litres of water to Rockhampton and surrounds – enriching the agricultural land in the surrounding region.

The Lower Fitzroy River is an untapped growth area in agricultural production, with the significant increase in water availability enabling the production of a number of high value crops including macadamia nuts, grapes, peanuts, sorghum and soybeans.

The area is adjacent to support and transport services in Rockhampton and Gladstone, and with central Queensland being relatively close to Southeast Asia, the potential to expand agricultural production created by the development of Rookwood Weir are significant.

The Federal Government estimates the expansion in agriculture will create up to 2,100 new jobs in addition to the 100 full time jobs created during the construction phase.

## **Water Security for Rockhampton and Gladstone**

By delivering significant amounts of new water, the Rookwood Weir will help ensure Rockhampton is not reliant on annual rainfall ensure the town has water. As the business case notes, currently Rockhampton is “susceptible to supply security risk after just one failed wet season.” The Rookwood Weir changes that, and ensures long term water security for Rocky.

The Rookwood Weir will also help set up the long term water security of Gladstone. While not currently facing a water crisis, Gladstone will need additional water by the 2030s. Building the Rookwood Weir now, will protect Gladstone in the future.

## **What Labor will do**

In January, the Queensland Government released a detailed business case for the project, announcing its total cost at \$352 million.

On a 50:50 split, Queensland is now requesting the Federal Government increase its funding commitment to \$176 million.

Labor will provide the full \$176 million to ensure this project goes ahead.

## **The LNP's record**

The LNP has long claimed to support the Rookwood Weir. To date, the LNP has refused to match the Queensland Labor Government's commitment to the Rookwood Weir.