

# CHEAPER WATER FOR QUEENSLAND FARMERS

## \$50 MILLION BOOST TO AGRICULTURE



Agriculture has always been a key industry to the Queensland economy, as best demonstrated by the vital role it played during the COVID-19 crisis.

The Palaszczuk Government partnered with the agricultural sector and the 334,000 jobs it supports to keep open the sector.

The Palaszczuk Government has always understood that the future of the agricultural sector is bright, with continued demand for quality local produce and international export markets continuing to expand.

A re-elected Palaszczuk Government will partner with industry and directly reduce the price of water in Queensland irrigation schemes to ensure that we can facilitate more crops, more jobs and more value.

Our \$50 million commitment will build on existing savings made – and will benefit over 6,400 farmers in Queensland.



**15% water price reduction for three years**

**50% price decrease for horticulture for three years**

**Benefiting over 6,400 farmers in Queensland**

### OUR COMMITMENT AND PLAN FOR QUEENSLAND

The Palaszczuk Government will invest **\$50 million to lower the cost of water for our farmers in irrigation schemes by:**

- Investing **\$27 million over three years to reduce the price of irrigated water by 15%**
- Investing **\$23 million over three years to reduce horticultural water costs by 50%.**

Our commitment will see real decreases in water costs for all Queensland farmers who use Queensland irrigation schemes.

Every farmer will see a 15% reduction to their water charges as part of our \$27 million scheme – and for the horticultural sector, in recognition of the number of harvest and picking jobs required, water prices will fall 50%.

Only a re-elected Palaszczuk Government will ensure water becomes cheaper for our farmers.



**WORKING TOGETHER FOR QUEENSLAND**

## PALASZCZUK GOVERNMENT'S RECORD

The Palaszczuk Government has a strong record of investing in water infrastructure and lowering the cost of water right across Queensland, committing more than \$1.2 billion since 2017, supporting almost 2,300 jobs.

Power and water are two major input costs for farmers, when it comes to electricity the Palaszczuk Government is stabilising electricity prices for Queenslanders through the \$2 Billion Affordable Energy Plan. The QCA has not increased electricity prices for the past three years for customers on obsolete tariffs, including farmers and irrigators.

This year we have already invested \$14.7 million to pass on irrigation water price savings, with \$2300 invested into every farmer. This includes \$42 million through to 2024 to absorb dam safety costs and freeze irrigation water prices for the current financial year, or reduce them where the QCA recommended to do so.

This investment has already seen farmers approximately \$400 on average better off than last year.

We have invested in water infrastructure across Queensland, including:

- **\$176 million for Rookwood Weir**
- **\$410 million for the Haughton Pipeline Duplication Project (Stage 1 & 2) in Townsville**
- **\$30 million for Big Rocks Weir, construction of which will support about 170 fulltime equivalent positions at peak**
- **\$16.5 million for the Burdekin Falls Dam raising feasibility studies**
- **\$14.53 million for the planning works for the Burdekin Falls Dam improvement project**
- **\$13.6 million to kick start the new Emu Swamp Dam**
- **Sealing a \$24 million deal for the next stage of assessment for the proposed Hells Gates Dam**

- **Next stage of assessment for Urannah Dam near Mackay in December last year and we've made it a coordinated project**
- **\$2.5 million for the pipeline for recycled water from the Warwick treatment centre to Warwick industrial estate**
- **\$1 million for a feasibility study for a potential pipeline to link Warwick to water from Wivenhoe Dam via Toowoomba.**
- **\$950,000 to the Southern Downs Regional Council for water security projects related to new and rejuvenated bores and fixing leaks in the reticulation system**
- **\$600,000 in freight subsidies**
- **\$800,000 a month to cart water for Stanthorpe until next wet season.**

## NEWMAN-FRECKLINGTON LEGACY

The Newman-Frecklington Government invested in no major water infrastructure.

They canned the Connors Dam. Their Costello Report recommended all investment in water infrastructure be left to the private sector.

Let's be clear, if Queensland still had a Newman-Frecklington government, there would be no Rookwood Weir, no Big Rocks Weir, no Emu Swamp Dam and no Haughton Pipeline Duplication.

They have no plan to help our farmers by reducing the cost of water – only an accounting trick.

They prepared our assets for sale and their proposed 'Water Audit' shows that they are prepared to strip water entitlements off irrigators and prepare the assets for sale once again.

Every time the LNP talks about an 'Audit', this is code for cuts and privatisation.



**Find out more online about how the Palaszczuk Government is Backing Our Farmers and Backing Queensland Jobs**

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