



## MEDIA RELEASE

15th April 2020

For immediate release

### **WANTON ECONOMIC DESTRUCTION NOT A REAL OPTION**

The wanton economic destruction of value that would flow from a failure to fully remediate the Paradise Dam is not an option.

Paradise Dam has a minimum economic asset life of 50 years and has only been in operation for just 15 years.

Unless fully remediated without any unnecessary lowering of the dam wall, Bundaberg region will be stripped of at least 35 years of economic expansion.

That means not only will farmers suffer from lost opportunity, but also local businesses that rely on the growth supplied by the dam's significant contribution to water security.

Water is the economic life blood of the region; it not only supports farmers but the economic backbone of Bundaberg.

Instead of pulling the dam down, government of any colour should be looking at expanding the irrigation network to grow the region and underpin the economic output associated with a guaranteed supply of water.

Investment has surged in the region due to the Paradise Dam. This should not be put under threat by a failure to fully remediate the dam.

Natural Resources, Mines and Energy Minister, Dr Anthony Lynham, said yesterday that "Testing and investigations will continue this year, including: geotechnical investigations of the dam's foundations, anchoring trials, and additional testing of the roller compacted concrete."

Until those investigations are complete, it is nothing but wanton destruction of an economic asset to propose to dismantle the dam wall, after independent experts told the Commission of Inquiry into Paradise Dam that previous testing was 'suspect' and safety issues had been overstated.

Global geotechnical expert Dr Paul Rizzo said an alarmist atmosphere had evolved over safety of the dam without adequate basis and the issues could be remediated at reasonable cost, as done at other major dams around the world without lowering it by five metres.

END

For comment contact BFGV Managing Director Bree Grima 07) 41533 007 or 0403 616 702