

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

Wednesday 25th March 2020

By-election candidates called on to stand up and support Paradise Dam

Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetable Growers (BFVG) have written to all candidates in this weekend's Currumbin and Bundamba by-elections calling on them to stand up for the region's water security.

Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetable Growers Managing Director Bree Grima says water security is vital for Bundaberg's prosperity, growth and economic development and the State Government must rebuild the Paradise Dam wall.

The State Government released the Building Queensland (BQ) Options Report for Paradise Dam mid-morning today.

The options being considered by BQ ranged from full remediation through to decommissioning the dam.

"There is only one option as far as BFVG is concerned and that is the full remediation of the dam and that is what we have told the candidates in Bundamba and Currumbin", Ms Grima said.

One option is to lower the dam wall to ten metres – that would see the dam as nothing more than a puddle. Another is to keep the dam at 42 percent capacity. That is not an option.

"The State Government must meet the water security commitment it made 15 years ago with construction of Paradise Dam. Farmers have invested heavily in the region which today supplies 25% of Australia's fresh produce", says Ms Grima.

BFVG's letter ([attached](#)) tells candidates that "Bundaberg should be a food bowl, not a dust bowl" and that is the choice that lies with them if successful.

"No ifs, buts or excuses. The dam has to be restored to full capacity", the letter tells candidates.

BFVG has also released an advertisement featuring local farm worker Rick Green ([see attached](#)). The advert is appearing on Facebook in the lead up to next weekend's by-elections in Currumbin and Bundamba.

Rick Green is from Childers and is a third-generation member of the local farming community and says building Paradise Dam allowed the Bundaberg region to become one of Australia's largest fruit and vegetable growing regions, supporting thousands of jobs.

Rick says: "Paradise Dam was built to drought-proof Bundaberg and provide confidence tearing it down instead of fixing it would be a disgrace."

"I'm very concerned that the Queensland government is even considering reducing the dam's capacity drastically" says Rick Green.

[END]

For comment contact BFVG on (07) 4153 3007, Bree Grima 0403 616 702 or visit www.bfvg.com.au.