



MEDIA RELEASE

17 April, 2020

For immediate release

No Water, No Crop, No Income

Agriculture is a foundational industry for the local economy and the health of the sector is dependent on water security.

If there is no water, there is no crop and no income and that affects every business in the region.

Research by Adept Economics reveals that three in four non-irrigated businesses believe water security is extremely important to their businesses. Moreover, these businesses believe their income is intrinsically linked to grower activity.

"Irrigated agriculture has a significant value-chain both upstream and downstream including nurseries, sugar mills, transport operators; packaging providers, ports, planting and harvesting contractors, fuel distributors, fertiliser and chemical retailers, farm machinery retailers, irrigation equipment suppliers, and accountants and insurance brokers", Adept reports.

"As an example of this value chain - one dollar in economic activity in cane growing supports an additional \$6.40 elsewhere in the economy."

Currently, there is a pipeline of \$4.2 billion of projects which are estimated to support 3,200 jobs, according to the *Invest in Bundaberg 2020* prospectus.

The Bundaberg region needs these jobs. Unemployment currently stands at 7.9 percent compared with the state average of 6.1 percent.

The social dislocation caused by an economic shock due to reduction in water security would have disastrous long term impacts given that Bundaberg region already has a disproportionate level of social disadvantage.

Paradise Dam is intrinsic to the economic future of the region. Each megalitre of water capacity lost equates to approximately \$14,000 of value lost.

Paradise Dam must be fully remediated if the region is to fully utilise its economic potential to grow the agriculture sector, downstream businesses and the jobs that go with it.

Failure to do so is to condemn the region to increased social dislocation which is unacceptable.

See full page advertisement [here](#) due to appear in the Newsmail tomorrow, Saturday 18th April.

END

For comment contact BFVG Managing Director Bree Grima 0741533 007 or 0403 616 702