

Media Statement

21 July 2015



We must have Fitzroy's Eden Bann and Rookwood Weir projects - Landry

Hard-working MP Michelle Landry says the Fitzroy Agricultural Corridor near Rockhampton must go ahead and has slammed 'green' groups for wanting to impede the initiative.

The Federal Member for Capricornia said raising Rookwood and Eden Bann Weirs, west of the city, was essential to the future development of the greater Rockhampton region.

"These two projects would create jobs and economic investment in agriculture near Rockhampton and industrial exports via the Port of Gladstone," Ms Landry said.

"I want it, our local Mayors want it, and agriculture and industry want it," Ms Landry said.

"Whenever there is a good case for development it seems the 'Greens' push against it. But they offer no alternatives for families needing jobs and no alternatives to increase the economic viability and security for our region's future.

"Of course such a project needs to meet sound environmental standards. But it shouldn't be held back when there have been years of studies and research put into these projects."

At a Federal level in Canberra, in her 18 short months in office, Ms Landry has pushed the Fitzroy water projects from pipeline concepts to 'serious projects' on the green and white papers on Agricultural Competitiveness - and from a large list of 150 potential dam projects onto the Prime Minister's list of top 30 water projects identified for Australia.

"These have been very significant steps to help this corridor, as the projects would not be considered unless they were on these lists," Ms Landry said.

"These projects would not just mean greater opportunities for our farmers, but also would bring multi-million-dollar construction projects to our region and create jobs."

The Fitzroy Agricultural Corridor is a \$400 million plus project that involves the upgrade of Eden Bann Weir and the further construction of Rookwood Weir.

Ms Landry said the project should be funded in a similar way to Tasmanian water projects where 50% of the cost was paid for by the Federal Government and the remainder split between the state and private enterprise.

But Ms Landry said she would like to see stronger financial commitment from Queensland's Agriculture Minister Bill Byrne to part fund the project.

"The Tasmanian style approach of joint funding - combining 50% from the Commonwealth and the remaining 50% split between state and private enterprise - is what is required in moving this project further forward. That includes Queensland putting real money on the table like other states have. That's why Tasmania has recently got so many water projects up ahead of Queensland," Ms Landry said.

Media contact: Christopher Lawson – (07) 4922 6604. **Mobile:** 0418 908 159