




Speech By
Barry O'Rourke

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

Record of Proceedings, 20 February 2020

ADJOURNMENT

Rookwood Weir

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (6.29 pm): Another week in parliament and again I am talking about the progress of Rookwood Weir and how we are just getting on with the job. Rookwood Weir is about 70 kilometres west of Rockhampton. As I have said previously, the Rockhampton Regional Council is delivering the \$7.5 million upgrade to Thirsty Creek Road. That upgrade is required to give heavy machinery access to the site. This work is due to be completed in May, creating local jobs for Rocky locals. Work will commence next month on the \$2 million upgrade of the Capricorn Highway intersection at Gogango, creating 15 jobs. Completion is expected in June subject to weather conditions. This will provide safe access for machinery and construction vehicles travelling to and from the weir site.

In April, the tender for the construction of the new Riverslea Bridge will be awarded. This will also create up to 15 local jobs. A new 18-metre high concrete bridge will replace the existing crossing. Works include a single 3.5-metre road lane, connecting the approaches to the bridge with the existing road, including passing bays at both ends and demolishing the existing culvert crossing. By May work will have started on site. In early October 2019 tenders were called for a major contractor to build the weir, seeking companies with the capability and expertise to deliver large-scale infrastructure projects to the highest industry standards.

The Palaszczuk government is the only government building dams and water infrastructure in Queensland. In this year alone we have committed \$848 million to water infrastructure, delivering more than 1,600 jobs. The Palaszczuk government's Buy Queensland policy requires those who are delivering these contracts to provide job opportunities for local communities. I am pleased to be part of a Palaszczuk government that has been focused on jobs and infrastructure. We support projects like the Rookwood Weir because it is important for Rockhampton and because it supports more jobs for our local community.

The \$352 million Rookwood Weir is underway—which I might add has only been funded by the Palaszczuk government so far. I keep hearing the member for Capricornia, Michelle Landry, say that the money is on the table. I just do not know where that table is.