



Speech By  
**Hon. Glenn Butcher**


**MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE**

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Rookwood Weir**

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (10.06 am): Today I am pleased to give the House an important update on the Palaszczuk government's plan for delivering economic recovery, and what better way to demonstrate that than by declaring that a brand new community is open for business in Central Queensland. That is right: what people in Central Queensland are calling 'Rookwoodville' has sprung up in the bush outside of Rockhampton to welcome a population of up to 250 people. That home away from home for the workers of Rookwood Weir is certainly buzzing with energy and optimism as they deliver critical infrastructure for the people of Central Queensland. Those proud Central Queenslanders—as many of us in the chamber are—include local workers from Rockhampton, Gladstone, Gracemere and all over the region who are securing and delivering our future. All of those workers are playing a key role in the project, which will deliver further opportunities for regional irrigators, industry and urban users right across Central Queensland.

As well as providing creature comforts including dining, exercise and entertainment facilities, the camp plays an important safety role for the workers. Workers will not be travelling long distances to and from site before and after their shifts, reducing traffic for locals and fatigue risks for workers. Additionally, critical construction activities that are time sensitive, such as concrete pours on the project, can start and finish early in the day. The camp means that local suppliers are certainly winners too as it provides them with opportunities to provide catering, housekeeping and maintenance services. It would not be a home for Central Queenslanders without some Rugby League and I am told that the camp even has its own touch footy field.

This is just another way in which this government is setting up Central Queensland for the future, with jobs today in building the weir, jobs tomorrow for irrigators and certainly jobs for future industries that the weir will support. Whether it is macadamia trees, cattle feedlots, aquaculture ponds, hydrogen generation or fresh fruit and veggies, that project is vital to the future of Central Queensland. The Palaszczuk government is delivering Queensland's plan for economic recovery and is setting up Queensland for the future. I look forward to updating the chamber once another milestone in this project is completed.