



Speech By  
**Barry O'Rourke**


**MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON**

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Rookwood Weir**

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (6.09 pm): Last week, Queensland's Minister for Water, Glenn Butcher, and I visited the \$367.2 million Rookwood Weir site. This project has now reached another milestone: staff have clocked up one million hours. This is a landmark infrastructure project which will deliver long-term water security and is delivering good jobs and better services in Central Queensland. There are more than 350 people working on site to build the weir that will capture water from the Fitzroy River for irrigation, industrial and urban use.

The Fitzroy is the second largest water catchment area to the Murray-Darling. With more than 350 staff now on site, this is the largest workforce since construction started in late 2020 and includes 160 Central Queenslanders and more than 170 from other parts of the state. There are also 16 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander positions and 25 apprentices and trainees who have been given the opportunity to work and learn on this infrastructure project. It is pleasing to see so many Central Queenslanders performing critical roles on an initiative that will benefit our region for generations.

When fully operational, Rookwood Weir is expected to create a further 300 jobs within the agriculture industry. I noticed when I was out there that they have started planting massive macadamia orchards and there is talk of a 35,000-head feedlot as well. With two large meatworks in Rocky, this will support great local jobs.

**A government member:** More beef!

**Mr O'ROURKE:** More beef, that is right. I will take that interjection. Central Queensland has also benefited with over \$100 million from construction which has been spent with local suppliers and contractors delivering a significant boost to economic growth in the region. Sunwater CEO Glenn Stockton praised the Rookwood Weir workforce as they experienced some difficulties in the river catchment over the past six months. It has been flooded out three times. Currently, the weir is progressing well with daytime concrete production to support night operations. By the end of July, they had already poured 35,000 cubic metres with about 130,000 cubic metres required. This is about futureproofing Central Queensland and creating great jobs.