



Speech By


Barry O'Rourke

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

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ADJOURNMENT

Bushfire Preparedness

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (6.18 pm): The first pipes for the \$983 million Fitzroy to Gladstone pipeline have arrived in Rockhampton, signalling that preparations are well underway for the start of construction. This is another major project for Central Queensland. Currently we have seen about \$4 billion in investment into major infrastructure projects which include our schools, Browne Park, numerous roads—including the Rockhampton Ring Road—and of course Rookwood Weir, which is now about 95 per cent complete.

This pipeline is 117 kilometres in length and will run from the lower Fitzroy River in Rockhampton and connect to Gladstone Area Water Board's existing water network at Yarwun, providing long-term water security to Gladstone industry and supporting the ongoing economic development in the region. The Palaszczuk government approved construction of the \$983 million project and has contributed \$548 million in the last budget.

The pipeline will have the capacity to transport 30 gigalitres per annum from the Fitzroy River to Gladstone. The pipes are being manufactured by Steel Mains Pty Ltd, an Australian manufacturer and supplier of complete steel. Works are underway and the expected project completion will be late 2026, subject to weather and construction conditions.

We are eager to see the lasting and positive legacy that the Fitzroy to Gladstone pipeline will have on our region as a result of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to supporting local businesses and the local workforce. We expect to see at least 40 per cent of the Fitzroy to Gladstone pipeline construction costs spent locally through the duration of this project, which is a fantastic opportunity and economic boost for Rockhampton. Rockhampton is very busy at present. Our local businesses are saying trade is very good.

The Fitzroy to Gladstone pipeline will create more than 400 jobs at the peak of construction in Rockhampton and Gladstone. We are also investing the time and the money into upskilling our next generation with more than 25 apprenticeships and trainees. Over 10,000 hours of training is being facilitated as part of this project. This is another great Labor project supporting our region and looking after regional Queensland.