




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

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ADJOURNMENT

Rookwood Weir

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (6.19 pm): Our fantastic new Rookwood Weir began spilling over on Wednesday, 27 December following significant downpours. This milestone comes just a month after the region-changing project was officially completed in November last year. The weir is the biggest piece of bulk water infrastructure delivered in Australia in the past decade. It will shore up the region's water security and drive growth and job creation for generations to come.

The last time I was at the weir, I was celebrating its completion alongside the federal minister, Minister Plibersek, the Queensland Treasurer and Minister Butcher. Rookwood Weir is part of the Miles government's record \$5.2 billion investment in water infrastructure, which has created 3,400 jobs across Queensland. Seeing it now completed and spilling is proof that we are a government that delivers for Queensland, especially regional Queensland.

I am proud to say we are already seeing the economic benefits of this project flow into the Central Queensland economy. We saw nearly 350 workers on the weir at the peak of construction and more than 30 apprentices and trainees. We also saw \$270 million injected into Central Queensland in delivering the weir. On top of that, it is estimated that at least 500 full-time jobs will be created because of the agricultural growth that we will see with the Rookwood Weir.

More than 36,000 megalitres of water has been sold for agricultural use, bringing new businesses to Central Queensland and allowing existing businesses to expand their operations. That includes big players like Rural Funds Management and Argyle Capital Partners, as well as 21 smaller and medium sized operators. This allocation will benefit growers planning commercial cropping such as grains as well as tree crops such as dragon fruit and macadamias. This project will leave a legacy impact by providing improved water security for irrigators, industry and urban water users. It will underpin economic growth in Central Queensland for years to come. I am particularly excited about the food manufacturing and processing opportunities that the weir promises to bring to Rockhampton.

The Miles government is continuing to deliver for our community with other major water infrastructure projects underway such as the Mount Morgan pipeline. I am so proud to be part of the Miles Labor government that continues to roll up its sleeves and deliver long-term infrastructure and good jobs for Central Queensland.