



Media Release

Council welcomes Rookwood Weir Announcement

Livingstone Shire Council has welcomed today's \$130 million Rookwood Weir funding announcement from Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and hard-working Federal Member for Capricornia Michelle Landry.

Mayor Bill Ludwig said the project's significance could not be overstated as it has the potential to completely transform the region's agricultural economy.

"What Rookwood Weir would allow us to do is advance the ambitious plans and studies that were jointly undertaken by Livingstone and other councils in the region, with the assistance of State Development, to fully realise our agricultural business potential," Mayor Ludwig said.

"Rookwood would give us an additional annual allocation of 4,000ML from Fitzroy River Water which would give us the capacity to transform our agricultural and industrial capacity to supply national and international export markets, secure and expand our current future industrial growth as well as urban water facility needs to the year 2050 and beyond.

"The timing could not be better for this announcement and we are very confident the State Government will partner with both the Federal Government and Central Queensland to transform the region's agricultural economy.

"Michelle Landry has been pushing very hard for more water infrastructure in the region and hopefully this announcement will be the catalyst to further unlock the region's agri-business potential," Mayor Ludwig said.

Deputy Mayor and Economic Development Councillor Graham Scott, who is also the Chairman of Capricorn Enterprise, said Livingstone Shire was well placed to capitalise on the benefits of the announcement.

"As the Gateway to Northern Australia, Rookwood gives our Shire further opportunities for clean, green, value-adding exports and opens up niche markets while also giving us supply chain advantages," Cr Scott said.

"This is one of the major projects we identified at the recent Priority Projects meeting, hosted by Capricorn Enterprise, as critically important to the diversification of our regional economy.

"Announcements like today are the result of joint collaboration with stakeholder groups from across Central Queensland and it's through this combined effort we can secure the funding to provide the economic growth, job creation and service delivery our residents need and deserve," said Deputy Mayor Scott.

For interviews, please contact Councillor Bill Ludwig on 0428 791 792 or Councillor Graham Scott on 0427 389 923.