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BIEDO Welcomes LNP Water Infrastructure Promises

Candidates in Saturday's State Government election are called upon to match the funding towards vital water infrastructure in the Wide Bay Burnett committed by the Liberal National Party (LNP) today.

The commitment will see an elected LNP Government provide \$20 million to construct the Barlil Weir on Barambah Creek in the South Burnett and \$25 million for the Cooranga Weir on the Boyne River in the North Burnett. Confirmation of the same funding commitment from all State candidates standing in the region will ensure these projects are realised.

Both the Barlil and Cooranga Weir projects were included in the recent Burnett Water Feasibility Study. This much-needed infrastructure would enable increased reliability of water supply for the production of crops and livestock operations on Barambah Creek and similarly on the Boyne River along with higher value horticulture.

In a media release, LNP Leader Deb Frecklington said this commitment would create 5000 new jobs in the Wide Bay Burnett, a direct boost in terms of employment, economic output from operations depending on water supply in these systems as well as indirect opportunities for the regional business community.

BIEDO CEO Kristy Frahm welcomes the announcement by the LNP which will support the agriculture sector and broader economy of the region.

"More than half of the businesses in the Burnett inland are directly related to Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing. Reliable water supply to underpin the sector is absolutely critical as producers and growers continue to face periods of water shortage."

"Water for current and future economic development continues to be raised as one of the highest priorities in the region", Ms Frahm said."

Barker Barambah Irrigator Advisory Committee Chair Stuart Nicholson echoes the sentiment, "increased water reliability will enable users on the scheme to better plan and develop their operations, which can be challenging to achieve in the current environment."

Ends.

For further information and comment, please contact Kristy Frahm ceo@biedo.org.au or call 0429683121.