

17 March 2022

DAMN WE'RE THRILLED TO BE DELIVERING URANNAH FOR NORTH QUEENSLAND

A dam on the Bowen Broken River has been a concept since it was first proposed in the 1950s and now Bowen River Utilities and the Federal Government are finally making it a reality.

Bowen River Utilities CEO James Benjamin thanked the Coalition Government for their significant announcement today that \$483 million in this month's Federal Budget has been allocated towards building Urannah Dam.

"This capital funding investment has been years in the making and we are so thrilled to at last be able to deliver on our promise to North Queensland residents, who have patiently waited for this project for generations, that we will build Urannah!" said Mr Benjamin.

"This is the first major dam to be built in Australia in more than 30 years.

"It is twice the size of Sydney Harbour and it will transform the Whitsundays and Isaac regions - delivering jobs, water security as well as export opportunities through the massive enhancement of the agriculture industry."

Bowen River Utilities (BRU) is one of the only privately-led proponents for water infrastructure in Australia. BRU requested this funding through the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund to cover 50 per cent of construction costs for Urannah Dam and will source the remaining funding from the private market.

"While it's a private project at the moment, once built, the Dam will be handed back to the taxpayer and become a Queensland Government asset," said Mr Benjamin.

Mr Benjamin also thanked the Palaszczuk Labor government for continuing to support and facilitate the long and complex approvals process, asking them to please take the next step to complete the contracts that will allow the federal funds to be released so we can keep moving forward.

"Both levels of Government came together to fix Paradise Dam so surely they can come together to Build Urannah," said Mr Benjamin.

Chairman of the Bowen Collinsville Enterprise Paul McLaughlin, who has helped lead the continued advocacy of the project, enthusiastically welcomed this monumental announcement from the Federal Government.

"Locals are excited! This will bring a huge boost of confidence back to our region," said Mr McLaughlin.

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT:

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“We know the importance of water infrastructure in our growing region and this investment will deliver jobs and opportunities that will continue to diversify existing industries and business in our area.”

The project will deliver 1200 jobs during construction, which is expected to take three years, as well as 650 ongoing roles.

“Our local population has been declining but the investment announcement today will mean locals can stay to work and raise their families here.”

ENDS

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