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**MEDIA RELEASE**

# Federal commitment makes sense of water at Last

Member for Burdekin and Shadow Minister for Northern Queensland, Dale Last, has welcomed the Federal Government's commitment to stage 2 of the Water for Townsville pipeline project.

The Prime Minister's commitment, according to Mr Last, not only provides water for a growing city but also assures the agricultural sector of access to the precious resource.

"There is absolutely no doubt that the Prime Minister's commitment is welcome news to Townsville residents but it's also great news for farmers and, ultimately, for the economy," Mr Last said.

"By extending the pipeline all the way to the Clare pumping station we minimise evaporation so we are using water more efficiently and that's important."

"It also means that 100% of the water in the channel system can be used by primary producers and that provides opportunities to increase agricultural output."

"Large parts of North Queensland rely on agriculture for their economic prosperity and any project that increases water efficiency and the amount of water available to farmers means more jobs in those centres."

Mr Last hoped that the project may be a catalyst for others both in North Queensland and throughout the State.

"Right now we have a State Government that won't build dams, a government that won't upgrade water infrastructure and a government that didn't want to give farmers access to excess water," Mr Last said.

"The Queensland Minister for Natural Resources needs to realise that it's his government holding up progress and that the Federal Government is willing to work toward solutions."

"Meanwhile the Queensland government wants to jack up the price of water because they have failed to manage the resource properly."

"If the State Government would stop playing politics and work with the Federal Government there are a number of water projects that could be underway now."

"This project is proof that cities and the agricultural sector can both benefit when we work together."

**ENDS**

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