



20 Nov 2018

Gympie Times, Gympie QLD

Section: General News • Article Type: News Item • Audience : 2,997 • Page: 1
Printed size: 176.00cm² • Region: QLD • Market: Australia • ASR: AUD 136 • words: 329
Item ID: 1039077774

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Burnett's water works gets \$2m spotlight

IMPROVED water infrastructure for the South and North Burnett west of Gympie could be in the pipeline thanks to \$2 million funding from the Federal Government for a feasibility study.

The study will explore the options available to ensure the security of the region's water supply in the future.

Acting Prime Minister Michael McCormack welcomed the announcement, which is

part of a \$500 million expansion of the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund.

He said water is the lifeblood of regional communities and this "historic" injection of funds will be a game changer for many communities.

"The \$2 million we are committing for the Burnett region's feasibility study further demonstrates that we are

getting on with the job of supporting communities to work with the States and Territories and Federal Government, to identify, plan and build new water infrastructure," Mr McCormack said.

Agriculture and Water Resources Minister David Littleproud said water means wealth and jobs in the regions.

"As a former rural bank manager, I know the value of a megalitre of water to a rural community," Mr Littleproud said.

"We're proud to be delivering water and wealth to rural communities."

Mr McCormack said the \$500 million included a feasibility component of \$30 million, which will support State and Territory Governments with finalising the design and approval of activities required to progress water infrastructure projects towards con-

struction.

Federal Member for Flynn Ken O'Dowd also welcomed the announcement.

He said the study will help drive economic and social growth in Queensland's regional areas.

"The feasibility study is great news for farmers in the region as it will examine a range of options and identify solutions to increase water supply that would underpin

an expansion of irrigated agriculture, delivering new jobs and economic growth in the North and South Burnett regions.

"Through the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund, we have committed over \$426 million to get construction underway on a series of key water infrastructure projects in Queensland," he said.