



MEDIA RELEASE
GLENN BUTCHER MP
MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

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\$29 million upgrade brings water security and jobs to Gladstone

A \$29 million dollar upgrade to Gladstone's water storage system will bring additional water security and a jobs boost for Gladstone.

Minister for Water Supply Mark Bailey said Gladstone residents and industries currently rely on Awoonga Dam as the sole supply of water.

"A new \$29 million Offline Storage Facility and Standby Pump System will be built to complement the existing water supply at Awoonga Dam," Mr Bailey said.

"The facility will provide reserve water storage capacity and allow Gladstone Area Water Board to schedule maintenance works without interrupting essential water supply to local community

"It will also provide a second source of water for Gladstone should there be short term fluctuations in the water quality in Lake Awoonga, such as occurred following the January 2013 floods.

"We have committed this funding because we are serious about providing Queenslanders with reliable and cost-effective water infrastructure."

Member for Gladstone Glenn Butcher said the Palaszczuk Government commitment would bring an important economic boost to the local economy, with Gladstone-born company Golding Contractors awarded the construction contract.

"Construction of the system means jobs for the Gladstone region, with 60 jobs supported during construction, most of which will be locally based," Mr Butcher said.

"I'm pleased to see Golding Contractors Pty Ltd, a local company, will complete the project, which is another win for the Gladstone community.

"Goldings has very strong ties to the Gladstone community, with Cyril Golding starting the company in Gladstone in 1942.

"Construction is set to begin in February 2017, with completion expected by mid-2018."

Gladstone Area Water Board Chair, Denis Cook, said by providing reserve water storage close to town, the project will significantly reduce the risk of supply interruptions to the region.

"This vital investment will continue the ongoing development of a water network that enhances the security of water supply to the Gladstone Region reinforcing its appeal as a location for major industry development" Mr Cook said.

"Over time the expected avoidance of outages for Gladstone water customers will more than offset the capital cost of the Offline Storage Facility."

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