

Hon Mark Furner MP
Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries
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Dear Minister

Re: Paradise Dam proposed Essential Works Project

Bundaberg and the Wide Bay Burnett region is one of Australia's food bowls.

Paradise Dam gives irrigators in Wide Bay water security now and in the future. This is a critical competitive advantage for agricultural production, which helps to support Bundaberg as a thriving regional community. There is strong demand from irrigators for currently unsold water, which demonstrates the importance of water security in providing confidence for future investments in the region's agricultural industries.

My concern is that any works to lower the spillway and reduce the overall storage capacity of Paradise Dam will reduce water security for local irrigators and have a significant impact on the economic viability of the Wide Bay region. I am also concerned by reports that there has been a shortlist of prospective contractors to undertake works to lower the spillway and that work will commence in April.

As a resident in this community, I agree that public safety is a critical concern. However, any decision about the future of Paradise Dam needs to be based on the facts in relation to engineering and public safety as well as water security and economic impacts.

The Tatro Hinds report from Sunwater indicates that additional testing should be conducted on Paradise Dam and RIZZO International – an international engineering firm with specialist expertise in water storages like Paradise Dam – has been engaged to assess all possible remediation options, including some which may not already have been considered.

I respectfully request that you, as the Minister responsible for the state's agricultural industries, speak to your ministerial colleagues on behalf of Wide Bay growers, to encourage the State Government to commit to:

- halting work to reduce the spillway until all engineering options have been properly considered; and
- maintaining current and forecast future water allocations.

Whatever decision the State Government makes about the future of Paradise Dam needs to keep the community safe, as well as protecting our competitive advantage and economic prosperity. We need your help to save paradise.

Yours sincerely

[INSERT NAME]