

MEDIA RELEASE

April 4, 2022

Community meeting for Lakeland Irrigation Scheme

Lakeland residents are invited to the quarterly Lakeland Irrigation Area Scheme community meeting on April 11 for an update on the proposed dam which will more than triple Lakeland's irrigated area and provide water security for landholders.

The Detailed Business Case proponent Regional Development Australia Tropical North Chair David Kempton and Project Manager Brendan Short from SMEC will discuss the latest developments and answer questions.

Mr Kempton said the exciting project would give the Lakeland community access to an affordable and reliable water supply and underpin jobs and growth in Cape York Peninsula.

"This will enable the expansion of agricultural activities, the potential to grow higher value and more diverse crops, and provide the security landholders need to invest in their businesses for the long-term," he said.

"The project will enable substantial expansion of agriculture and horticulture from Lakeland, supporting food security for our nation."

"We are currently working on a detailed business case to be presented to the Federal Government in September to enable a focused funding package to be developed."

Mr Short said a great deal of progress had taken place since the last community meeting in September 2021 with the reference design phase now complete.

"We will discuss the type of dam to be built, the preferred tunnel transfer option, and the configuration of the irrigation supply network," he said.

"Landholders will also gain an understanding of the factors driving water pricing and the key economic and environmental elements being addressed in the business case."

About the Lakeland Irrigation Area Scheme

The proposed 205,000ML dam, situated on the Palmer River, will service and expand the Lakeland agricultural area.

The water will be gravity fed to Lakeland through a 12 km tunnel. The tunnel will transfer the water to the distribution point where a network will take water directly to the farm gate under pressure.



Of the 8,000 ha of identified freehold agricultural area in Lakeland, only 1,370 ha is under irrigation. The completion of the dam would render the full 8,000 ha irrigable. Around 10,000 ha of additional good agricultural land lies adjacent to Lakeland which could also be serviced in the future.

Event details

Date: 11 April 2022

Time: 12.30 – 2.00pm

Location: Lakeland Town Hall

Light refreshments provided

For more information about the meeting please contact Regional Development Australia Tropical North on (07) 4041 1729

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Regional Development Australia Tropical North Inc is an independent organisation driven by community leaders to broker regional development solutions that will create jobs and grow the Far North Queensland economy.

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Visit www.rdatropicalnorth.org.au for more information about Regional Development Australia Tropical North.

