

MEDIA RELEASE

September 23, 2022

Lakeland residents invited to discuss Irrigation Scheme

Feedback from the wider community will be sought at a public meeting in Lakeland to discuss the community and social impact of the Lakeland Irrigation Area Scheme on September 27.

Regional Development Australia Tropical North Chief Executive Officer Sonja Johnson said the final stages of the Detailed Business Case to build a dam to expand the Lakeland agricultural area were underway after submitting a draft for comment to the State Government.

“We have held regular meetings with the growers who will benefit from the water security the dam would provide and now need to hear how other businesses and residents think the Lakeland Irrigation Area Scheme would affect them,” she said.

“As part of our stakeholder engagement we want to know what the aspirations of the wider community are if the Lakeland agricultural area expands.

“Perhaps there are other economic opportunities, what additional community services would be necessary, and are there any disadvantages to be overcome.

“We are working closely with Cook Shire Council to understand implementation pathways if the Detailed Business Case shows the project is viable.

“The proposed 205,000ML dam, situated on the Palmer River, will more than triple the Lakeland agricultural area from 1,370ha to 8,000ha with the potential to further service around 10,000ha of additional quality agricultural land adjacent to Lakeland.

“Lakeland would develop into a major food bowl, while construction would create hundreds of jobs at the township and an estimated 3,400 jobs ongoing when the dam is operational.

The Lakeland Area Irrigation Scheme Community Information Session is on September 27, 12-1.30pm at the Lakeland Community Hall. Light refreshments will be provided.

For more information about the meeting or to register your attendance, please contact Regional Development Australia Tropical North on (07) 4041 1729 or via info@rdatropicalnorth.org.au

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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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