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MEDIA RELEASE

Gateway to opportunity

Member for Burdekin and Shadow Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Dale Last, has welcomed the release of the Feasibility Report into the Hells Gates Dam.

According to Mr Last, today's release of the report reinforces his belief that a bipartisan approach is needed to realise the North's true potential.

"Hells Gates is an exciting prospect for the whole of North Queensland because it, and other projects, have the potential to transform the entire region," Mr Last said.

"For years now federal and state governments have talked about realising the potential of Northern Australia and the results of this feasibility study show that potential can be achieved, not just talked about."

"This one project can go a long way toward meeting the goal of doubling Australia's agricultural output."

"When you combine the potential of Hells Gates, the Urannah Dam and other projects you can see the potential for North Queensland as a supplier of clean, green, high value food and fibre to Asia and beyond."

The Feasibility Study, funded by the Federal Government, highlighted the importance of seeing the Hells Gates Dam as a part of developing the North; not as a singular solution.

"Right now there is an amazing opportunity to really advance the North," Mr Last said.

"The opportunity is there to develop water assets, agriculture and supporting industries that would provide thousands of jobs... we just need leadership at all three levels of government at the same time."

"While the early stages of the project aren't focussed on Townsville's water supply, there is an option for that and there's also an option to generate and store power so it certainly ticks most of the boxes."

"The next step is for the environmental, cultural heritage and economic studies to be done and if the numbers stack up I would hope the funding would be there and we can get this underway because a project of this size doesn't get built overnight."

"The advantage of a 10 year time frame is that we can make sure we take full advantage of the opportunity to create jobs in agriculture and all of the associated industries."

"It's exciting to see that Hells Gates might work but we have to work together to make sure we get it right."

"North Queensland needs real opportunity and real economic growth; not more empty promises."

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