

## **FEDERAL BUDGET DOESN'T ADDRESS ALL WATER SECURITY CONCERNS IN THE BURNETT INLAND**

The Burnett Inland Economic Development Organisation (BIEDO) had hoped for more funded water projects in 2022-2023 Federal Budget.

General Manager of BIEDO, Kristy Board said "Our North and South Burnett regions are counting on Federal investment into Water Security, more than what was provided in the Federal budget. I was pleased to see Paradise Dam, in writing, in the budget. However, we continue to highlight the need for the North and South Burnett local government area's water security to be major priority of the Burnett Inland."

BIEDO board member and local water advocate Treavor Harvey further commented, "We are happy to see that the Federal and State Governments are spending money on water infrastructure, however, the most recent and current regional feasibility study highlights a number of unaddressed water needs across the Burnett. We plead with the government for further funding to address the water needs of the North and South Burnett local government areas."

General Manager Kristy Board went onto say she was pleased at the focus on the regions in the budget handed down by Treasurer, Hon. Josh Frydenberg MP for the 2022-2023, Tuesday 29 March 2022.

"It was great to see that regional Australia was included as a full highlight heading in the budget for 2022-2023. However, we do believe there is more investment required for regional Australia, especially the Burnett Inland, to be considered sustainable, equitable, and realise the economic output and opportunity to produce more for Australia." Said Mrs Board.

Kristy further highlighted that the Burnett Inland is reliant on Federal and State funding to close the gap between city and country living.

"This disparity of the city and country living story is best told by our new residents, who have chosen to work and live regional since the COVID19 pandemic. Having before had a plethora of healthcare access, job and service access and public transport; now as residents of our regions, they are experiencing first-hand the access gap between city and regional living. Still to this day, regional Australia experiences significant barriers of connectivity, transport, and healthcare. This budget doesn't address these issues, or allow for residents to experience same accessibility as an Australian who lives in the city" said Mrs Board.

"We would have also liked to have seen some more focus on helping our aged people so that they could deservedly access equitable healthcare, access, and facilities. They too deserve to grow old in favourable, comfortable conditions. We also would have liked to have seen more investment in our tourism sector and transport sector. Investment in these industries would have been an opportunity for the Federal Government to boost the productivity and ability of the North and South Burnett regions." said Mrs Board.

Kristy Board called out again to the Federal Government to invest in local government.

“A key budget request that was left unfunded was the call-out to increase taxation allocation to our local Councils so that they can invest into the key infrastructure needs of our communities, in real time, every year and with certainty. It’s the missing economic piece for our regions and we believe would be the single biggest gamechanger across regional Australia if just 1% of the revenue was allocated for this purpose.” said Kristy.

“It was great to see the budget allow for cost-of-living relief for the Burnett Inland. Petrol is for many the only bridge to farming, work and school with little to no alternative in the regions.

BIEDO will now be working to connect our community members with all of the opportunities from this budget. We will keep working together with the government and community to keep our economy strong, communities resilient and regional water and development prioritised,” said Kristy.

Residents of the North and South Burnett are encouraged to connect with BIEDO via their website [biedo.org.au](http://biedo.org.au) or Facebook Page.

**END**

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