

WELCOME TO ROOKWOOD-VILLE, POPULATION 250

A “new town” has sprung to life in Central Queensland - one that will provide a home-away-from-home for hundreds of workers on Rookwood Weir.

Contractors and suppliers have begun arriving at an accommodation camp that will house up to 250 project staff.

Minister for Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water Glenn Butcher said the facility will play a key role in delivering the \$367.2 million project that will enhance water security for Central Queensland.

“Located 16 kilometres north of Gogango, the camp will provide quarters for crews working 10 days on, four days off, to build the weir.

“The facilities are first-class for a workers camp, including ensuite rooms, free pay TV and Wi-Fi, a gymnasium and even it’s own touch footy field,” Mr Butcher said.

Member for Rockhampton Barry O’Rourke said 96 workers and accommodation camp staff were already on-site, with more arriving every day.

“We have local workers from Rockhampton, Gladstone and other locations in Central Queensland, with 70 per cent currently from the region.

“The camp affords numerous opportunities for local suppliers to provide services to workers, such as catering, housekeeping, and maintenance.

“There are also staff from other parts of the state, and it is expected up to 200 will be on-site as activities continue to ramp up in the coming weeks and months,” Mr O’Rourke said.

Member for Keppel and Assistant Minister for Education Brittany Lauga said all of these workers are playing a key role in this project that will deliver improved water security for irrigators, industry and urban use across the Capricornia Coast.

“Having accommodation close to the weir site is important for safety reasons, as many DIDO workers in my electorate know.

“Workers won’t be travelling long distances to and from site before and after shifts, reducing traffic for locals, and fatigue risks for workers.

“Additionally, critical construction activities that are time sensitive, such as concrete pours, can start and finish early each day,” Ms Lauga said.

Kyla Sprecher, a McCosker’s Contracting project administrator from Boyne Island near Gladstone, said she is enjoying life at the camp, which she described as “one of the best I’ve stayed in”.

“It’s clean and safe and I feel respected, plus the food is of such a high quality with skilled chefs serving up meals that are really delicious.

“The food is a real highlight as they are made with fresh ingredients and cooked on site and don’t taste like frozen stuff just reheated and thrown together; there’s care and attention to the meals served.

“The location of the camp is terrific, as it is only about three minutes from the construction site and is surrounded by cattle grazing in paddocks.

“You feel like you’re in the middle of the bush being an hour from downtown Rockhampton,” she said.

About Rookwood Weir

Rookwood Weir is being constructed on the Fitzroy River, 66 kilometres south-west of Rockhampton.

The thousands of megalitres of water it will make available will underpin agricultural growth and supply industrial and urban water in central Queensland.

The Rookwood Weir project is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland governments, delivered in partnership with Sunwater.

Work continues on the new Riverslea Bridge, with two other road projects associated with the weir – the \$2.2 million Capricorn Highway intersection upgrade at Gogango and the \$7.5 million upgrade at Thirsty Creek Road – completed last year.