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## **Queensland election: Labor water pricing promise welcomed**

Cotton Australia has applauded a commitment from Queensland Labor to make irrigation water more affordable for farmers, should it win the upcoming election.

Labor has announced a commitment that should it be re-elected, there will be a 15 per cent reduction in irrigation water charges for growers who access water from state-owned irrigation schemes, and a 50 per cent cut for fruit and vegetable growers.

The promise comes after the LNP announced in July its commitment to cutting water prices by about 20% should it form government, and that it intended to transition SunWater from an annuity to a regulated asset based (RAB) approach for financing asset renewals.

Cotton Australia General Manager Michael Murray said the promise by Labor was good news for Queensland cotton growers.

“We welcome this announcement and thank Queensland Labor for stepping up to the plate to support our growers,” he said.

“Queensland’s irrigation industry provides vital support to the state’s economy, and our growers work hard to produce some of the best cotton found anywhere in the world.

“By making irrigation water more affordable, more money will be put back in the pockets of our growers at a time they need it most after being impacted by the effects of drought and COVID-19.”

Mr Murray said it was pleasing that both major political parties had recognised the importance of affordable irrigation water and were willing to back Queensland farmers.

“The reality is that whoever forms government next week is now committed to providing significant support to irrigated farmers, and all electors should consider the announced policies prior to casting their votes,” he said.

“The upcoming election is an important one for the future of Queensland in bouncing back from disasters like drought and COVID-19.

“All farmers, but particularly cotton growers, will have a big role to play in helping our state on its road to recovery.”

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