

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND NEWS

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Investment to boost Central Highlands food bowl

A \$100,000 investment by the Palaszczuk government in the Central Highlands is set to boost food production in the region.

Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Economic Development Bill Byrne said the government was working with the Central Highlands Development

Corporation on a number of initiatives set to enhance the region's reputation as a powerhouse of agribusiness.

"The Central Highlands' fertile soils make it one of Australia's most important production areas," Mr Byrne said.

"It's a subtropical area with assured water supplies from Fairbairn Dam and the

Nogoa-Mackenzie Irrigation Scheme and that makes it an ideal location for a variety of crops.

"Produce includes citrus fruits, chickpeas, cereals, cotton, beef, mungbeans and table grapes and the Palaszczuk government recognises the economic contribution made by Highlands producers and

wants to help them to expand production."

Mr Byrne said the initiatives would encourage on-farm innovation and provide enhanced production data across the supply chain.

The collaboration is set to deliver a number of outcomes including an Agribusiness Capability

Statement aimed to improve production estimates and assist with forecasting seasonal input and logistic requirements.

Investment funds will also go toward launching an Ag-Tech and Innovation Agribusiness event to be held in November.

The event will focus on technologies that improve

farm and agribusiness profitability.

The remaining funds will be used to film a short documentary.

The documentary will follow the supply chain of the Central Highlands' commodities and showcase the region's natural assets, innovative people and employment opportunities.