

Central Queensland News

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Dr Anthony Lynham and Mayor Kerry Hayes at the announcement.

Yamala grains funding a win

INFRASTRUCTURE

INDUSTRY representatives are cheering after the State Government announced funding which will enable infrastructure to support the development of an inland port at Yamala (\$6,355,539 from the State Government and \$2,635,539 from Central Highlands Regional Council).

The Yamala Rail Siding Project will get \$2,600,000 from Graincorp and \$1,690,000 from CQ Inland Port.

The ALP announcement, delivered by State development minister Dr Anthony Lynham was welcomed by LNP's member for Gregory Lachlan Millar.

"This is fantastic - it's just

great news to see investment in critical infrastructure," he said.

"One of the biggest issues we have is logistics, and getting grain from paddock to port, this allows a totally new site to be established... and be able to load trains in two hours instead of twelve hours."

Central Highlands Regional Council Mayor Kerry Hayes said the funding for the Yamala Enterprise Area would result in long-term economic benefits, freight efficiencies and employment growth for Queensland and the Central Highlands.

"The initial stage involves a major upgrade to the intersection of the Capricorn Highway and Bonnie Doon

Road, construction of a 1.5 kilometre rail siding and an upgrade to Bonnie Doon Road for access to the site," he said.

Mr Millar said last year, it was disappointing to see high-value chickpea crops trucked in, and then one month later seeing empty trucks come in to pick up the same crop and take it to port.

AgForce Queensland's Central Queensland representative Sharon Howard said the announcement would be of relief to Gindie growers.

"Gindie growers will be very relieved to hear that there is a 12 month deadline for that road to be built," she said.

— KELLY BUTTERWORTH