



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Thursday, 2 March 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Water Infrastructure

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (9.44 am): Our historic South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan contains more than \$2.3 billion in water projects. We are working to meet the critical challenge of water supply through a range of strategies including new infrastructure, better management of available water, recycling and demand management. Today I announce a significant development with one of the key water projects in the plan. The Coordinator-General has declared that the new \$16 million Mary River Weir is a significant project. The Mary River is 307 kilometres long from the headwaters in the Conondale Range south-west of Maleny to its mouth at Riverheads. The river flows through Conondale, Kenilworth, Gympie, Tiaro and Maryborough to the Great Straits.

The new weir will be constructed near Coles Crossing and provide additional valuable water supplies for residents of the Noosa, Gympie and Cooloola shires. By declaring the project, it means that the Coordinator-General will manage the environmental impact statement process and provide a coordinated assessment of the project to address all government requirements in a single assessment. I seek leave to have more details incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Facilitating work on the Mary River project builds on the other water projects we are undertaking in south east Queensland.

For example \$20 million has been allocated to commence design, route acquisition and other pre-construction works for stage one of the Western Corridor Recycled Water Project.

In addition the \$12 million Cedar Grove Weir on the Logan River is on track for completion in 2007/08, with land acquisition due to commence shortly.

Our Government is working hard to meet the challenge of addressing the water supply needs of the more than one million extra people expected to live in this region by 2026.

Mr BEATTIE: That shows we are getting on with the job.