



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Friday, 9 June 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Water Infrastructure, Environmental Management

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (9.39 am): As I have indicated, a lot of work we undertake will obviously depend on the final catchment and design of the dam on the Mary River. However, I can guarantee that we will put in place a number of stringent measures to minimise any environmental impacts of the dam. Environmental flows of water will be maintained at approximately 85 per cent, and water quality and the impact on fauna and flora will be closely monitored.

We can also guarantee that a fishway will be part of any dam development. We have already successfully incorporated one of the world's most advanced fishways into the Paradise Dam in the Burnett. It has been in operation for several months now and has successfully been transporting fish, including Queensland lungfish, across the dam wall. It is for upstream fish movement and combines engineering excellence and Fisheries scientific expertise with a well-researched understanding of native fish behaviour.

We have also developed a turtle hatchery at Paradise Dam. That is something we will look at for the Mary River as well. The hatchery allows the turtle eggs to be incubated until hatched and grown to a certain size when they can be released safely into the wild.

We will also ensure that areas of ecological significance impaired by the dam are replicated outside the area subject to inundation. At Paradise Dam we planted over 100,000 trees to replace those affected by inundation. We will undertake a similar program around the site of the proposed dam at Traveston, doubling the amount of native vegetation affected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Will members please stop talking and listen to what the Premier has to say.

Mr BEATTIE: We will ensure we meet strict state and Commonwealth environmental requirements. We will set the bar high when it comes to environmental concerns related to the building of the dam, a dam that is absolutely vital for securing water supplies for south-east Queensland.