



Speech by  
**Jeff Seeney**

**MEMBER FOR CALLIDE**

Hansard Tuesday, 20 February 2007

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## **WATER SUPPLY**

**Mr SEENEY** (Callide—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.28 am): Anyone who has followed Queensland politics over the last 20 years would have yesterday been bemused, confused or even flabbergasted at what they read in the state's media. Seeing a Labor Party Premier standing up talking about the Bradfield Scheme would have left anybody with even a passing knowledge of Queensland politics shaking their heads.

There has been one constant in this place for 20 years: the coalition parties have advocated the construction of water infrastructure right across the state. Labor governments and the Labor Party have poured scorn, derision and criticism on us for doing so. For 20 years that has been the one constant in this place.

We all know that for Peter Beattie the Bradfield Scheme is not about diverting water; it is about diverting attention. It is about diverting attention away from his government's failings. This is a government that is hooked on diversions. Like a drug addict who needs a bigger hit each day to get the result that they want, so, too, the government needs a bigger diversion. It needs a bigger diversion each day, each week to get the result it wants. Last week it was building high-rise buildings in the Brisbane River. Yesterday it was diverting inland rivers. What are we going to be doing tomorrow? Towing icebergs from Antarctica or some other ridiculous diversion?

It is all about diverting attention away from the things that this government is trying to hide. That is the question for the people of Queensland: what is it that the government is trying to hide? What are the revelations coming from those court cases that we cannot talk about? What is it that we are being diverted away from? We can talk about the water crisis and the impending disaster that is looming for the people of Brisbane. That in itself is, I think, enough reason for the Premier to try to divert attention.