



Speech by

Hon. Paul Lucas

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

Hansard Thursday, 15 November 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Water Infrastructure

Hon. PT LUCAS (Lytton—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (9.54 am): 2007 has been an historic year in Queensland for building and planning water infrastructure, particularly on the progressive delivery of the \$9 billion water grid. Bundamba's advanced waste water treatment plant and the pipeline to Swanbank Power Station have been delivered. Construction of the Tugun desalination plant is approaching the halfway mark. More than 3½ thousand workers are on the job across the south-east putting down foundations for the future. Construction of the Cedar Grove Weir and the Bromelton offstream storage are underway. The EIS for the raising of the Hinze Dam is out for public consultation, and so, too, is the Traveston Crossing Dam EIS, and as of last week the Wyaralong Dam EIS was put out for consultation. But still the opposition whinges and whines.

Wyaralong Dam, if approved in a timely fashion by the Coordinator-General and the federal government, could be finished by 2010—a year ahead of schedule. Yet that is bad news according to the Leader of the Opposition. The media release he put out last week, which I table, says that it is 17 years late.

Tabled paper: Copy of a media release, dated 7 November 2007, by Queensland Coalition titled 'Wyaralong Dam should have been built years ago'.

Did the coalition start work on it when it was last in office? No. When the coalition does get around to building the dam, it is slower than water torture. Here is the proof. Somerset Dam took 24 years to finish, albeit with a stop-work during World War II. North Pine took eight years to construct. Wivenhoe also took eight years to construct. Compare that to Paradise Dam, which was built in two years during a Labor government. Traveston Crossing Dam is estimated to take three years and Wyaralong Dam two years.

What is the message? If you want a dam built in Queensland, call Labor. If the coalition had its way there would be no Wyaralong Dam until 2012—two years after the Labor. That is the inconvenient truth of the coalition submission to the Senate inquiry into Traveston Crossing Dam. The submission is dated 2 April 2007—and I will table it—and signed by the Queensland opposition leader.

Tabled paper: Copy of a submission, dated 2 April 2007, from Mr Jeff Seeney MP, Leader of the Opposition, to the secretary, Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport relating to additional water supplies for south-east Queensland.

So what did it say about Wyaralong Dam? It states—

A Queensland coalition believes the state government should complete construction of the Wyaralong Dam and the associated Cedar Grove Weir for which planning and land purchases are well advanced within five years. In addition, the Queensland coalition believes the government should investigate and develop an offstream storage at Bromelton to boost water supplies from the Beaudesert region.

Regarding that offstream storage at Bromelton, I have a news flash: Labor is already building it and it will be finished next year. The message is crystal clear: while Labor is building water infrastructure the coalition spends its time squabbling and cannot sort its line out. We have the member for Gympie, who

does not want the Traveston Crossing Dam. We have the member for Kawana, who does not want desalination plants anywhere on the Sunshine Coast. We have the member for Maroochydore, who this week revealed her support for the reasons for building the Traveston Crossing Dam—that is, the \$5 billion loss if it does not happen, but she does not want any pipe built.

Miss SIMPSON: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Deputy Premier is deliberately misleading the parliament. I do not support the Traveston Crossing Dam compared to the better alternatives.

Mr LUCAS: She did not support the Beattie government's ban—

Miss SIMPSON: Mr Speaker, I would ask that the minister withdraw that offending and misleading comment.

Mr LUCAS: I will withdraw that comment. She did not support the Beattie government's ban on tree clearing but now apparently wants full carbon offsets for the Gold Coast desalination plant and thinks that will improve the business case of desalination against the Traveston Crossing Dam. Just yesterday in another example of his searing intellect the member for Burnett revealed that he wants dams built closer to Brisbane, not halfway up the coast. It is on page 4251 of *Hansard* for anyone who wants to check it out. He wants dams built closer to Brisbane than Traveston and no recycling. He said—

We need to build them closer to Brisbane, not halfway up the coast. If we want Brisbane people to drink water and not have to drink their own urine and their own faeces, then we should have had a process of building dams closer to Brisbane which this government failed to do, as indeed Kevin Rudd failed to do.

Tabled paper: Copy of extract from *Hansard*, dated 14 November 2007, page 4251.

What about the Wynnum wading pond? What about one at The Gap? What about one on the Brisbane River? What a searing intellect! What about the eel pond in the Botanical Gardens? So we have the guy who does not want desalination, the guy who does not want the dam, the woman who does not want pipes, the bloke who does not want recycling, and the opposition leader who cannot pull them into line and have one consistent line. And of course we have the Liberals who opposed the Wolffdene Dam in the first place when they had a chance to vote on it. The coalition does not have a plan for south-east Queensland's water. We do; we will deliver it.