



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Tuesday, 4 September 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Bundamba Advanced Water Treatment Plant

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.33 am): Today I want to inform the House of the completion of the first stage of the water grid. I am pleased to report to the House today that a major milestone has been reached in the drought-proofing of the south-east corner. While many said it could not be done, including the whingers opposite, the Deputy Premier, the member for Bundamba and I were at the Swanbank Power Station last Monday, 27 August when the first flow of purified recycled water from the Bundamba Advanced Water Treatment Plant was delivered. And was it sweet! All the knockers and whingers said that it could not be done, and while they are still whingeing it has been done.

Ten months ago there was nothing more than a paddock at the Bundamba site. Now we have a high-tech plant producing some of the best grade recycled water in the world which easily meets Australian drinking water standards. And just to prove it, the Deputy Premier, the member for Bundamba, the member for Ipswich and I drank some of it on Sunday, and I feel as healthy as I always do—and we can make judgements about that. We were at the new Bundamba plant on Sunday to congratulate the workers on the incredible pace at which they have delivered this essential part of my government's water grid. In other words, these fantastic Australian workers proved the knockers and the whingers wrong.

This stage of the water grid is currently delivering 13 megalitres of water a day to Swanbank—the equivalent to the daily drinking supply of—

Mr Seeney: Every time you mention it it gets less and less.

Mr BEATTIE: Good heavens, you cannot even whinge quietly! This stage of the water grid is currently delivering 13 megalitres of water a day to Swanbank—the equivalent to the daily drinking supply of a community approaching the size of Ipswich or Logan. This milestone is the first step in implementing the largest recycled water scheme in the Southern Hemisphere and demonstrates my government's commitment to ensuring a reliable, climate resistant water supply that will satisfy our needs now and for future generations.

When the Western Corridor Recycled Water Project is complete at the end of 2008, it will link all three of the world-class advanced water treatment plants at Luggage Point, Gibson Island and Bundamba with the Wivenhoe Dam. These plants combined will provide up to 232 megalitres of purified recycled water to the power stations and Wivenhoe Dam each day via 200 kilometres of pipeline. This is enough to satisfy more than a third of the region's current daily water use.

To date, more than 1.7 million working hours have been dedicated to ensuring that the Western Corridor Recycled Water Project is completed on time, and I am sure that members join with me—those who are not whingeing from the other side—in commending their efforts.