



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Tuesday, 4 September 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Sunshine Coast, Flooding

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.37 am): I want to place on record my thanks to all of the people involved in the response to last month's damaging floods across the Sunshine Coast and the Gympie region. During the storms which first hit the Gold Coast on 18 August, the SES received 2,730 calls for assistance on its 132500 telephone number. These calls resulted in just over 1,000 tasks for Sunshine Coast volunteers and included swift water rescues and responses to flooding and storm damage.

A huge amount of water fell in the area, and I know it was a difficult time for the locals. We have done everything we can to work with the councils to repair the damage. We have seen that with the roadworks, as the minister for transport and the Minister for Emergency Services know. The Deputy Premier and the Minister for Emergency Services visited the area to offer whatever help we possibly could. In terms of the amount of water that fell, SunWater informs me that if the proposed Traveston Dam had been completed just before the rain fell it would now be at 61 per cent capacity, providing an enormous amount of water. I am advised that measurements—

Mr Springborg: What about the Wolffdene Dam?

Mr BEATTIE: You don't like it! The argument is over about Traveston Dam. It is the best location and you lost the argument. I am advised that measurements at Dagon Pocket show that the total flood—

Mr Horan: Wolffdene would have been full last January.

Mr BEATTIE: Mr Acting Speaker, there is such anxiety on the other side. When they are wrong, they should accept it with grace.

I am advised that measurements at Dagon Pocket show that the total flood volume was approximately 92,600 megalitres. SunWater has also advised that the Mary River has experienced flow rates of the same magnitude or bigger than August's flow 23 years out of the last 49 years—that is, between 1958 and 2007. I think the opposition should come into this House and apologise to the Deputy Premier. I have to say that the Deputy Premier has had the courage to stand up to provide water for the south-east corner, and the Deputy Premier has done a magnificent job. We have recycled water, the dam is being built, the pipelines are being built, and now we finally have the truth about the Traveston Dam. Clearly the completed dam will provide a vital new level of water security for all of south-east Queensland. The argument about Traveston Dam is over. The proof is there in the rain level.

Rainfall of that scale of course presented many challenges to people living locally, and the response was led by 388 State Emergency Service volunteers. The SES groups involved were in the main from the local region but crews travelled from Bundaberg, Hervey Bay, Maryborough, Isis, Toowoomba, Kingaroy, Murgon and Nanango. Crews from the greater Brisbane and Redlands area and those from Warwick, Gatton and Laidley also lent assistance, and I want to publicly thank them today. Volunteers from the Rural Fire Service and workers from Ergon and Energex, Main Roads and the Queensland police were also involved in the responses. I want to also thank Surf Life Saving Queensland and the Salvation Army for

their hard work during the floods. Commonwealth and state natural disaster relief and recovery arrangements are being activated. Assistance is available to councils for the restoration of essential public assets and reimbursement of eligible counterdisaster operational costs, and we will work with them on this issue.