



Speech by

# Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Thursday, 12 November 2009

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Toowoomba Pipeline

**Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (10.01 am): I am pleased to announce that the final piece of the 38-kilometre Toowoomba pipeline has been connected this morning—almost two months ahead of schedule. All 3,325 pipes in the 38-kilometre pipeline between Wivenhoe Dam and Toowoomba's Lake Cressbrook are now in place.

In the past 20 years there has been a measurable decline in the average rainfall over the region's catchment areas. This continued lack of reliable rainfall has placed the existing water supply system under significant pressure. Despite implementing and maintaining level 5 water restrictions since September 2006 and an increased reliance upon underground water sources, the combined level of Toowoomba's three dams continues to fall. At the beginning of November, the total available supply was only 8.9 per cent.

The water supply pipeline connecting the dams remains on track to be completed by the end of January. Once complete, this system will bring the state's largest inland city out of drought and ensure long-term water security by providing enough water to cater for demand until 2042. With the capacity to transfer 14,200 megalitres of water per annum at a speed of 491 litres per second, the new pipeline will fast enhance the seriously depleted reservoir supplies. In addition, the pump station at Wivenhoe is 70 per cent finished, with the overall project completion date of January 2010 due to be achieved. It is a project we are proud of.

I again want to thank the Toowoomba Pipeline Alliance, LinkWater Projects and the many local businesses that were involved in building the pipeline on a job well done, and I know the member for Toowoomba North would join me in extending that expression of appreciation. Clearly, we are disappointed about the decision on the Traveston Crossing Dam, but this shows that we are getting on with the job of delivering water security for the whole region.