



Speech by


Hon. Mark McArdle

MEMBER FOR CALOUNDRA

Hansard Thursday, 7 June 2012

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Water Infrastructure

 **Hon. MF McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (9.54 am): During the past two years surplus water pipes from LinkWater's five bulk water projects have been stored at a leased site at Teviot Road, Greenbank in the event that they may be required for maintenance or for future projects. These are legacies from the former government's \$7 billion-plus water infrastructure spend, which saw pipelines constructed at any price because Labor failed to pay attention to infrastructure until disaster was almost upon us. Few will forget 2006 and 2007, when water levels in our major dams fell to under 15 per cent capacity. Labor then threw taxpayers' cash at construction companies, paying multiple prices over the normal construction costs in order have the water grid in place before dam levels reached critical lows

Mr Rickuss: Invoiced entry.

Mr McARDLE: I can advise the House that the last remnants of this reckless spending, which is 500 lengths of leftover pipe totalling five kilometres, have now been stored at Teviot Road, Greenbank. During the construction phase of the water grid, this area was used as a lay-down area for pipes being used in the 94 kilometre Southern Regional Water Pipeline, the 8.4 kilometre Eastern Pipeline Interconnector, the 47 kilometre Northern Pipeline Interconnector—stage 1, the 48 kilometre Northern Pipeline Interconnector—stage 2 and the 38 kilometre Toowoomba Pipeline.

The majority of the pipes stored were being kept for the proposed Cedar Grove Connector project, which was originally due to be delivered by 2015. This will now not be required and it is hoped that the balance of the pipes will, in fact, be disposed of by auction.

Finally, we are coming to the closure of phase 1 of the Beattie-Bligh government's disastrous water grid outlay of funds. Indeed, the comment made by the member is quite right: it was payment by invoice. There was no proper process put in place to account for the funds or for the process undertaken. This government will now clean up the mess.