




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 11 October 2016

MOTION: WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (6.37 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the shadow minister for water. It is so disappointing to have to sit in this chamber and listen to the member for Rockhampton forgo his own electorate. I was up in the good city of Rockhampton and the Mackay region only about a week or two ago with the member for Whitsunday and the Deputy Prime Minister of this great country, Barnaby Joyce. What were we doing up there?

Mr Costigan: What a great press conference!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It was a great press conference.

Mr Costigan: Because we told the story about what they're not doing.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection. We did tell a story about what they are not doing. It was so disappointing that the minister for water in this state does not understand the need for agriculture in this great state of Queensland. How do we increase the value of agriculture in this great state of Queensland? We give it water so that some things can grow. That is easy for us to understand, but obviously those over there have simply no clue. What did the Deputy Prime Minister say in the federal parliament yesterday? In relation to the Queensland state government being offered \$19.8 million towards 14 dam feasibility studies, they had not even bothered to take up the offer. He said—

But unfortunately we have had to deal with Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk, who is not progressing any of these dams ... In fact, she is spending a lot more time arguing with one of her colleagues, Ms Trad, about who is going to be the next premier of Queensland ...

He went on to say—

Although we have put \$19.8 million on the table for 14 studies, not one of them has been started ... there has been neither sight nor sound of what Queensland intends to do. The Queensland Labor Party has basically gone to sleep on us.

How disappointing, Minister Bailey. The fact is that we have projects which have been spoken about in this House like the Rookwood Weir, and the government over there cannot even acknowledge the much needed infrastructure that would really kickstart this state.

There are 13 different proposals on the table. There is \$19.8 million on the table. What are those opposite doing? They are doing absolutely nothing. Every other state in this great country of ours has taken up the funding offer of the federal government for much needed water infrastructure in this country. What does the Queensland Palaszczuk Labor government do? It does absolutely nothing. It is completely asleep at the wheel. This minister for water has no idea how to communicate with the federal government to receive this money.

This inaction is holding up generational projects. We are talking about the Gayndah Regional Irrigation Development project in the North Burnett, which would help the member for Callide, the Bundaberg Channel Capacity Upgrade feasibility study and the Urannah Dam around Mackay. Of course, I cannot not name again the Rookwood Weir, which the member for Rockhampton, the Minister for Police—

An honourable member: Rookwood?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I did say Rookwood Weir. We have heard in this House that it appears there is no support for this project. When I was in Rockhampton, one of the most disappointing things I heard was that the Minister for Police would not get behind this much needed project for the future of agriculture in this great state.

For generations we have been talking about water infrastructure. For the first time in generations we have a deputy prime minister who is putting money on the table—offering it to every state, including Queensland. What does the minister do? He does absolutely nothing. There is \$19.8 million to kickstart 14 projects in this great state—or at least look towards those projects, get the feasibility studies going—so that the agriculture sector of this state and everyone else can benefit from the economic uplift we would get from these projects. This minister is a do-nothing minister. He is completely asleep at the wheel. He needs to get to work.

(Time expired)