



Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**


**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

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**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Rookwood Weir**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12.51 pm): There has been no clearer example of what this Palaszczuk government and the Premier think of our rural industries, of our rural communities, of water and agriculture and how they go hand in hand than the fact that this Premier will not appoint a dedicated agriculture minister for this great industry and for this great state. Labor is saying no to jobs and Labor is saying no to water security in Central Queensland with the startling revelations this week that Annastacia Palaszczuk has refused an offer from the federal coalition to fully fund Rookwood Weir. The facts should be put on the table here in this parliament. In true Palaszczuk government style, the Premier did nothing—did not even communicate the offer to the water minister and definitely not to the agriculture minister. Oh, that is right—they only have an acting minister!

This is a new level of do-nothingness from Annastacia Palaszczuk when they cannot even respond to an offer from the Prime Minister to fully fund 100 per cent of Rookwood Weir. Queensland has now missed out on \$260 million worth of funding because of this incompetent Labor government. It has been over 500 days since the Commonwealth government put half the funding of \$130 million on the table for Rookwood Weir, and Annastacia Palaszczuk, as the Premier of this state, has done nothing.

It is clear Labor do not want to build Rookwood Weir. Instead of matching this contribution, they have dithered around with a protracted business case process. The business case is due but nothing has been released. It will no doubt be one of those secret reports, secret business cases, that never sees the light of day under this Labor government. The Palaszczuk government's rejection of the federal coalition's offer to fully fund Rookwood Weir will hurt job creation and water security in Central Queensland. Even when Labor is gifted vital infrastructure in its entirety by a government that wants to deliver for regional Queensland, this do-nothing government and do-nothing Premier refuse point blank.

Former premier Peter Beattie promised Rookwood Weir back in 2006. He said it would be built by 2011. Here we are in 2017 with a Labor government and we still have no Rookwood Weir. Labor broke its promise to Central Queensland. In Central Queensland, we have the member for Gregory, Lachlan Millar; we have the candidate for Rockhampton, Douglas Rodgers; we have the candidate for Mirani, Kerry Latter; and we have the candidate for Keppel, Peter Blundell. These are people who understand regional and Central Queensland and who will publicly fight for this project, instead of the couple of Labor candidates who are publicly fighting for the seat of Rockhampton. They are not interested in the people of Rocky, not interested in Central Queensland, not interested in building Rookwood Weir; they are only interested in publicly fighting for a job.

Whether it is Rookwood Weir, Nullinga Dam or Urannah Dam, they are all hopelessly stalled and bitterly divided under Labor. We all know what this is about. It always comes back to one thing: the political self-interest of the Deputy Premier and her ongoing fight against the Greens in South Brisbane.

The Commonwealth government has funded a \$5 million feasibility study into Nullinga Dam, yet Labor—go figure—will not release the study. The Premier refused in this House last sitting week to update this House on the status of that project and used cabinet as a smokescreen, but they cannot smokescreen the fact that the Palaszczuk government is yet to distribute \$3 million from the Commonwealth government for a feasibility study into Urannah Dam. After over 500 days it is a total failure that this government has not passed that funding on to the project proponents.

Where Labor has failed, the LNP will act. We will act to secure tens of thousands of jobs and deliver water security for regional Queensland. A Tim Nicholls LNP government will build the roads, the bridges and dams that regional Queensland needs.