




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

Record of Proceedings, 7 September 2017

**PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE: REPORT, MOTION TO TAKE
NOTE**

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (12.23 pm): I rise to speak to the Public Works and Utilities Committee's report on its inquiry into Auditor-General report to parliament No. 7 of 2016-17, titled *Water: 2015-16 results of financial audits*. On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank the committee secretariat and the Queensland Audit Office for their assistance in our consideration of the Auditor-General's report. I also acknowledge the chair of the committee, the member for Kallangur, and my colleagues on the committee. The committee made one recommendation which was for the Legislative Assembly to note the contents of the report.

Our government owned water entities operate across the state to deliver essential services to Queensland households, businesses and irrigators. The Palaszczuk government's commitment not to sell our assets, unlike those on the opposite side, means that public ownership of our water providers means that we can deploy them for the benefit of the people of Queensland.

Just this year, under our Powering North Queensland Plan, we committed a \$100 million equity injection into SunWater and a reinjection of dividends to fund works to ensure that Burdekin Falls Dam not only continues to meet design standards, but also is able to support the installation of a 50-megawatt hydro power plant—which will involve another \$100 million investment—to provide the Queensland electricity grid with a new source of dispatchable power generation. Further, SunWater owns many of the dams and bulk water assets our agriculture sector relies on.

The SEQ water grid comprises 600 kilometres of pipelines which connect the region's major water treatment plants and water supply dams. This grid ensures that South-East Queensland has one of Australia's most secure drinking water supplies because it allows us to move water across the region from where it is plentiful to where it is scarce. Seqwater uses the grid daily to move drinking water across South-East Queensland to maximise the efficiency and effectiveness of the region's water supply and has undertaken steps to improve its processes in line with the Queensland Audit Office's report. Further, the Queensland Audit Office found that all water entities are financially sustainable.