




Speech By
Shane King

MEMBER FOR KALLANGUR

Record of Proceedings, 7 September 2017

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

 **Mr KING** (Kallangur—ALP) (12.14 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Public Works and Utilities Committee report No. 40 titled *Auditor-General report to parliament 7: 2016-17 water: 2015-16 results of financial audits*, tabled 31 May 2017.

On behalf of the committee, I thank the committee secretariat and the Queensland Audit Office for their assistance with our consideration of the report. I also thank the committee members for their work during our examination of the report. The Queensland Audit Office's audit found that all our GOCs are financially sustainable. There is a ripple in Seqwater, but they do have a planned path to address that financial position in a way that is fair and sustainable. As we know, Seqwater is the owner of the South-East Queensland Water Grid, which has drought proofed South-East Queensland through strategic investments in large-scale water infrastructure during the millennium drought. During a different examination, our committee visited some of those facilities. We saw the investment that has saved us several times.

It is because of the Labor government's investment in climate resilient water sources and the water grid that South-East Queensland was better able to respond when poor summer rainfall left some of the region's dams in worse shape than others. When we have disasters in this area, such as ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie, water treatment plants can go down, pounded by high rainfall events. As we saw during our visit, the Gold Coast desalination plant does not have any rust, as those opposite like to say. There is no rust whatsoever and there never was, except during construction. The Gold Coast desalination plant kicked into gear and was running at 100 per cent capacity to ensure that water supply was maintained.

By building one of Australia's first water grids, we now have the flexibility to change supply sources when we need to and move drinking water across our region. Those investments ensure the south-east always has a reliable high-quality water supply. I note that the member for Southport was a big advocate for the desalination plant when we were down there. He loved it. Seqwater is on a price path, set by the Queensland Competition Authority, to reach a sustainable and fair bulk water price to pay down those investments, which have proven to be highly valuable to our state again and again. I am pleased to report that Seqwater has developed and implemented enhanced financial government practices to address the QAO's other findings.