



Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 26 November 2019

MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Liberal National Party, Election Commitments

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): The LNP has a plan to build the largest drought-proofing infrastructure project Queensland has ever seen. It is big, it is bold and it is ambitious. The LNP is committed to making it happen. The New Bradfield Scheme will create tens of thousands of jobs, generate 2,000 megawatts of hydro-electricity and irrigate an area larger than Tasmania. This project is a game changer. For too long the Palaszczuk Labor government has not done enough to help our struggling farmers, but the LNP will not turn its back on regional Queensland. I know the horrors of drought. I have seen a lot of it. Earlier this month I spent four days travelling the north-west of Queensland. Two-thirds of Queensland is suffering from the drought. The shadow agriculture minister and I have walked through the dusty crops and the dry farms. We have heard the stories from farmers. These men and women are at breaking point. They need hope, they need help and they need a hand but, most importantly, they need water.

The New Bradfield Scheme has been developed by two of Queensland's most respected people in industry: Sir Leo Hielscher and Sir Frank Moore. It was inspired by the drought relief scheme proposed by Queensland engineer John Bradfield in 1938, but Sir Leo's and Sir Frank's scheme is brand-new. It takes John Bradfield's concept and makes it work. The LNP's plan includes almost doubling the height of Hells Gates Dam, drawing water from the South Johnstone, Tully, Herbert and Burdekin rivers into a lake potentially twice the size of the current Burdekin Falls Dam. The New Bradfield Scheme would use gravity to feed water from Hells Gates Dam through tunnels beneath the range.

If elected next year, the LNP will commission the CSIRO to begin advanced planning. We will work closely with the federal government to make this project a reality. The New Bradfield Scheme complements our existing plan for water security. At the start of this year I announced the LNP's plan to establish the Queensland Dam Co. in Townsville. Its sole purpose will be to build dams and update existing ones. This state is desperate for water and it is desperate for jobs. We cannot waste another four years on Labor's anti-dams and anti-jobs agenda. Water is the lifeblood of regional Queensland, and it is only the LNP that has a plan and a vision to deliver the New Bradfield Scheme. We know that water means jobs. Queensland's bushfire season has intensified in recent weeks, but the threat—

A government member: Say it: 'global warming'.

Honourable members interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Queensland's bushfire season has intensified in recent weeks. Those opposite may think it is a joke, but for my local communities this is not a laughing matter. The communities of Yeppoon, Wide Bay, Sunshine Coast, Beenleigh, Scenic Rim and Gold Coast—and in my electorate of Nanango particularly around the Somerset region and the Mondure region—are among the affected areas. For many of those people who have lost homes, that does affect their livelihood. Those opposite may wish to laugh, but on their behalf I take offence.

Firefighters put themselves in dangerous situations. Without them, more homes, sheds and wildlife could have been lost. Communities have been saved because of these local heroes. Most of the men and the women are volunteers. On behalf of the LNP, I thank the hardworking fire crews and the volunteers for their professionalism and courage. Whether people were on the front line, donating clothes or behind the barbie at an evacuation centre, we say thank you. Thank you for putting your community first. Thank you for being there in a time of need. I encourage everyone to be bushfire ready, because Queensland is in for a long, hot summer.

It saddens me to know that there are people in our community who deliberately light fires. Even some juveniles have been caught red-handed. The Palaszczuk Labor government's soft-on-crime approach simply is not working. Of the 136 children charged with endangering property in Queensland by lighting fires in the past two years, only 18 were convicted. Queenslanders expect consequences for those people who deliberately light fires and in turn endanger lives. The Palaszczuk Labor government needs to toughen up.

Queensland still has the worst unemployment rate in the country. Less than a month out from Christmas, 177,400 Queenslanders are looking for a job. Never before in the history of this great state have more Queenslanders been looking for work. Some 14,000 jobs were lost under the Palaszczuk government in October alone—in one month! This Labor government's anti-jobs agenda is hurting Queensland. Queensland's shocking unemployment rate is no fluke. This is what happens when you slug Queenslanders with nine new or increased taxes. This is what happens when you do not have a job-creating infrastructure plan. The Premier and the Treasurer should hang their heads in shame given their record of an anti-jobs agenda. It is only the LNP that will get Queensland working again, thanks to our job-creating infrastructure program and our no-new-tax guarantee.

The Palaszczuk Labor government is holding Queensland back. My vision is for Queensland to reach its full potential. The LNP will build dams, roads and infrastructure that will create jobs and boost the economy. We want to get things done, and we cannot waste another four years. It is not just the jobless rate that is heading in the wrong direction. The latest CCIQ business survey is a damning indictment of this current government. The CCIQ business index slumped 6.4 points in September—the lowest score recorded since the index began in 2007. Almost half of businesses saw profits fall over the last quarter. These numbers, just like those opposite, are uninspiring and flat. Labor is stopping Queensland from reaching its full potential.

We are approaching 11 months until the next state election. My team is ready for the fight. We have the plan for jobs, water security, health, education and infrastructure. We have a vision for a better Queensland. We will get Queensland working again, because Queensland does not deserve another four years of Labor. It is not worth the risk. Under Labor, the economy is in tatters, unemployment is up, crime is up, tourism has suffered, business confidence has collapsed, waitlists have blown out, congestion is worse and NAPLAN results have nosedived.

My team is determined to clean up Labor's mess. We have the plan, the people and the passion. I have had the pleasure of announcing even more candidates recently, with Mackay Deputy Mayor Amanda Camm contesting Whitsunday. Amanda has dedicated the last decade to public service. Kirsten Jackson will contest the seat of Gaven. The people of Gaven deserve a hardworking local member who will fight for them, and Kirsten is passionate about her local region. Henry Pike has been endorsed as the candidate for Redlands. He would be an outstanding representative for Redlands and deliver action to reduce hospital wait times, improve education services and create the jobs that that region so desperately needs, because we know that the bayside has stalled under Annastacia Palaszczuk.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): The member will use correct titles, please.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The LNP has never been more motivated to topple this weak Labor government.