




Speech By
Scott Stewart

MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

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MOTION

Liberal National Party, Commitments

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (5.46 pm): It is lovely to follow the member for Kawana. We know that when they do not have anything to say they just make personal attacks. I listened intently and for 4½ minutes the member for Kawana made personal attacks on members of this side and spoke about the actual motion for only 30 seconds. It shows how much faith he has in the motion when all he does is make personal attacks. It is all about the personal attacks when they have nothing.

I oppose the motion, which is deceptive and downright irresponsible. In the past five years in Queensland only one government has a track record on delivering water infrastructure and security, and that is the Palaszczuk government. Since 2017 we have committed \$1.2 billion to water infrastructure across the state, supporting almost 2,300 jobs in regional Queensland. In fact, in my backyard this government has put up \$410 million for the Haughton pipeline duplication. We built stage 1 at a cost of \$215 million. After the federal government said that they would fully fund it, what happened? They could not stump up!

Mr Harper: They walked away.

Mr STEWART: I take the interjection from the member for Thuringowa: they walked away. Phillip Thompson went missing in action and failed every one of my constituents. We now have to pick up the bill. We are funding stage 2 of the water pipeline because the federal LNP government could not deliver on its promise.

There is another \$14.53 million in planned works for the Burdekin Falls Dam Improvement Project. In fact, we have contributed \$16.5 million for the feasibility study to raise the wall of the Burdekin Falls Dam. Members may remember that that was announced when parliament was sitting in Townsville and everyone came to our great part of the earth. Now it has been made a coordinated project, which shows how serious we are. We are getting on with the job, not just talking about it.

In contrast, in their chaotic three years in government what did the LNP do with the Burdekin Falls Dam? Zero! They did absolutely nothing. That is endemic to the LNP. As the Minister for Natural Resources said in the chamber this very morning—

Dr Lynham: What a great bloke.

Mr STEWART: What a great bloke; I take that interjection from the minister—they have short arms and deep pockets when it comes to funding water infrastructure. That seems to be occurring in Central Queensland where the LNP has failed to meet its funding promise on Rookwood Weir.

In the meantime, the Palaszczuk government is getting on and building our own with \$176 million, creating jobs and opportunities for local businesses. We cannot wait for those hollow promises. We have to get in and do the job the LNP cannot do.

As for Bradfield type schemes, my North Queensland caucus colleagues and I have been discussing this extensively with the Minister for Natural Resources. Any Bradfield style scheme starts with water storage in the north and that is well and truly underway, as we have heard. There are three

business cases happening into major water infrastructure in the north—into raising the Burdekin Falls Dam, into Hells Gates Dam and into Big Rocks Weir. Urannah Dam has also been declared a coordinated project to reduce red tape.

How can you trust people like the LNP welschers who do not deliver on their promises? Let us not forget their shocking track record when it comes to child sex offenders. With reduced reporting and monitoring requirements for convicted offenders, this is the party that has no credibility. Under the Palaszczuk government, Queensland has the toughest sex offender reporting regime in the nation. Their whereabouts, their movements and their details are all known to police. Those reportable offenders are required to comply with strict, rigid and robust conditions. The Australian Institute of Criminology found that 'public sex offender registers do not reduce recidivism'. This government will always listen to and support the experts—unlike those opposite, who cannot even support our police. What happened when the LNP was in office? Some 110 senior police were gone—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr STEWART: They do not like it. Here they go! Some 300 police personnel were gone, police and firearms training was reduced and they forced the police to buy their own body worn cameras. The member for Ninderry stands up and says that we need to make sure police have all the resources they need to do their job. What happened under the LNP? They told them that they needed to buy their own. What a shame. They reneged on promises to provide \$20 million for extra police and training to patrol safe night out precincts. In 2014—

(Time expired)