



Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 23 February 2021


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (2020-2021) BILL

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Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)


Appropriation (2020-2021) Bill

State Development and Regional Industries Committee, Report

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (12.58 pm): What an absolute joke of an agriculture minister in Queensland if that is the best he has! He only has five minutes in this House to actually talk up the agricultural industry here in Queensland and he can only make four minutes! That is how important the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector is to this agriculture minister. That is how important rural and regional Queensland is to this agriculture minister in Queensland. He cannot even make five minutes from the estimates process.

What did we learn through this committee? I thank the member for Lockyer for raising water. Water is a vital issue for the economy of Queensland. What did we learn through the estimates process? We learned that there is a list of broken promises from this Labor government. There is no relief for over 1,000 water users for part A water charges—no relief. Even Peter Beattie gave relief, but there is no relief from this Palaszczuk government.

In Toowoomba in around January last year the Premier stood up and said that she was going to build a pipeline from Toowoomba to Warwick. When questioned through the estimates process, where is the money for that pipeline? There is absolutely zero in the budget because there is no pipeline. This is another fake, false promise from this fake, false government that we have, but it is obvious. Whilst we know that there is no pipeline and no relief for the people of Warwick—no pipeline and no relief for part A water prices—another massive shame from this budget and the election is around irrigation prices and the uncertainty and the lack of clarity.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (3.00 pm), continuing: I am pleased to follow the water minister, given he actually mentioned the word 'Paradise'. What government would rip down a dam in the middle of a drought? I can see the member for Burnett up there shaking his head. We know that the irrigators of that region—Tom Marland and the Bundaberg Fruit & Vegetable Growers—are bringing that case because it is vitally important. We have the member for Bundaberg who cannot even stand up for his community or the farmers in that area.

Mr SMITH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence to that and ask that the member withdraw.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw. According to Sunwater's own forecast, levels in Paradise Dam will drop to zero by June 2021. Without significant inflows, Paradise Dam will soon be empty and it will be the member for Bundaberg who has to answer to his community because of the ineptitude of the Palaszczuk Labor government.

I note that the minister for manufacturing was unfortunately not able to attend estimates, and it is good that he is back. When it comes to manufacturing, the Palaszczuk Labor government is flying blind. This minister is completely clueless and obviously was not watching the estimates process. The manufacturing department confirmed in the estimates process that there was no modelling or analysis on the 18,000 manufacturing jobs that were lost in Queensland before COVID. The minister for manufacturing tries to talk about and mislead the House about manufacturing jobs in Queensland. It is quite extraordinary that the department tasked with setting policy frameworks to maintain and attract new manufacturing jobs in Queensland has done no analysis and has no clue about how and why those 18,000 Queenslanders lost their jobs in manufacturing before COVID.

This is the minister for manufacturing yet he is not even in control of the one manufacturing job-creating project—the train project. He is not even in control of that. That has got nothing to do with the actual minister for manufacturing, because unfortunately they do not trust the minister for manufacturing to have oversight of it. It is no wonder when the minister was unable to answer, through the Deputy Premier, what had happened to those 18,000 Queensland jobs and there had been no analysis and no forecasting.

It was disappointing that the minister was unable to attend but it is a bit like the fact there is no pipeline. We have seen no clarity around the Palaszczuk government's promise around irrigation prices. Through the estimates process, we were able to ascertain that again the minister has no clue when it comes to who is going to benefit, what crops are going to benefit and when they are going to change. Why are they pitting one neighbour against another? Why are they pitting one district against another? The minister talks about 15 per cent, but what about the QCA increase? If the minister had been at estimates, he would have heard that the QCA is going to increase water prices and the Palaszczuk government's reduction is going to happen after the QCA hikes the prices up. Goodness me! That means water prices will go through the roof here in Queensland, and the people who are going to be affected are those in the agricultural industry here in Queensland.