



Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**


**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 April 2021

**MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Water Supply**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.48 pm): The definition of 'complacent' is someone who is very pleased with themselves and feels that they do not need to do anything about a situation even though that situation might be uncertain or dangerous. I would like to give this House an example of the government's complacency, and that is in relation to the Toowoomba to Warwick pipeline. It was the Premier of Queensland who on 20 January last year went out to Warwick and supposedly inspected an area where the pipeline was going to go and announced, without telling the Toowoomba Regional Council, they were going to build a pipeline. She said it meant 'delivering the pipeline faster' and 'by using existing publicly owned land, there will be very little if any land acquisitions required'. That was on 20 January 2020.

What has happened since that date? I will tell the House what has happened. Just last week the Premier decided to go out to Warwick with her water minister, who I am not sure was allowed to speak at the press conference, and said, 'We are going to do a study.' This is after the Premier said on 20 January 2020 that the pipeline from Toowoomba to Warwick was going to be built by the end of 2020. That is complacency.

We know that Seqwater completed a preliminary report in January 2020 and at that time found that a water pipeline from Toowoomba to Warwick was the optimal and recommended solution. We know that the final report, handed down in June 2020, confirmed the recommendation. What did the government do? They did absolutely nothing. They sat on that report.

Stanthorpe had run out of drinking water. Water was being carted in every day—14 trucks carting 42 truckloads every day, costing taxpayers \$800,000 a month. You would think that the Labor government would hurry up with their report and deliver this solution—a pipeline delivered by the end of 2020. It is now April 2021 and what have we got? We have nothing—not even a shovel in the ground—but we have a report. Guess why the Premier decided it would be a good time to head out to the Granite Belt to talk about water? Miraculously it had rained. The Premier thought, 'This would be a good time. The pressure is off the locals. The dam is full. Let's go out there and make another fake announcement'—another announcement that shows that the people of the Granite Belt are treated like absolute fools by this Labor government.

It is unacceptable that just because the rain fell from the sky the Premier decided to show her face in an area that was desperate for help. It was the Premier who went out there and said she had a solution for the water problems in the Granite Belt. Where have those solutions landed with the people of that area? They have landed absolutely nowhere. The pipeline was meant to be built by now. It was meant to have water flowing through it by now, even if you added all the extra months and extra costs to every single infrastructure project that this Labor government ever gets a whiff of. That is what we have seen—complete complacency by this Labor government.

We sit in the chamber here today and we hear from the water minister about pool tables and Rugby fields or touch football fields for the camp at Rookwood Weir. Guess why we are hearing about Rookwood Weir? It is to take our attention away from the debacle that is Paradise Dam. It is to take our attention away from the fact that the people around Coalstoun Lakes are looking for a solution for water. They have the most incredible soils. I thank the people of Coalstoun Lakes who met with me last week at Paradise Dam and then in their beautiful area. They need a solution to Paradise Dam. If that dam wall is restored, it is one sure-fire way that we can get water to another beautiful part of this great state that can produce good food and provide fruit and vegetable at times when other areas may be doing a bit tough. It is an incredible part of the world, and so is the Bundaberg area, which deserves to have some relief. The only reason we hear about Rookwood Weir in this House is to take people's attention away from the debacle that is Paradise Dam.