



Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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RESOURCES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (4.03 pm): I too rise to contribute to the debate on the Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This is an omnibus bill that amends or repeals five separate acts across three different portfolios. For the purpose of my contribution I will largely be focusing on the amendments that deal with the water portfolio. However, I do wish to take up the points made by the shadow minister and my neighbouring member of parliament, the member Condamine, as well as the member for Toowoomba North. They both spoke eloquently as, with hope, they pleaded with the minister.

My colleague the member for Toowoomba North was being quite sarcastic—I think that is the term—in his contribution when he said that he looks forward to the minister for mines approving the Acland mining licence. Wouldn't that be a wonderful day for the people of the Darling Downs, the people of Oakey, the people of Goombungee and the people of my area as well? People who live as far away as Blackbutt and Kingaroy work in that mine. They are spread all the way around the Darling Downs, the South Burnett and into the North Burnett. That mine and its workers are looking to the minister to stand up for Queensland and their community.

I hear what is being said about renewables and all the rest of it. I agree, because our communities support Brisbane members by supporting those renewable projects. We need only look to the electorate of the member for Warrego, where hundreds of thousands of acres are now solar farms. Wind farms are being built right across this great state. This morning the minister stood up and said, 'There were no wind farms under them.' Go figure! What about the Coopers Gap Wind Farm? It was our government that put the proposals in place for the Coopers Gap Wind Farm and took it outside of the authority of the local government. I can see the minister agreeing with me because he knows that it was the former LNP government that put that in place. These guys opposite are trying to pretend that they now support the industry but they would not have a clue about what it does for regional Queensland. It goes hand in hand with the agricultural industry and it goes hand in hand with the mining industry. I join the member for Toowoomba North and the member for Condamine in saying that we very much look forward to the minister for mines standing up on behalf of the people of the Darling Downs, the South Burnett and the south-west and approving that mine. It is what the community has wanted and it is what that community deserves.

I turn to the water part of the bill, which is important. The minister talked about an amendment to address the fact that Urban Utilities and Unitywater are not able to enforce water restrictions in the same way as other water providers. I note from the committee report that the Queensland Conservation Council said that this amendment would—

... lead to greater security for South-East Queensland water users, and the more uniform application of water restrictions across the South-East Queensland region will lead to greater equity, fairness and uniformity on how they are applied across the region.

As the shadow minister in this space, I also have a view on this.

Make no mistake: there would be no need for these heavy-handed water restrictions if the Palaszczuk Labor government or former Labor governments had actually done some planning around what we need in the south-east for water, not just for Brisbane but also for areas around the south-east where the fruit and vegie growers are located. That is what it is all about and it is called 'planning'. As of today, the Wivenhoe Dam water levels sit at 40.4 per cent. We need to bear in mind that we are currently working on an amended full supply level for Wivenhoe Dam of 90 per cent, which is in place while works are being undertaken at Somerset Dam. The south-east's main water supply is just 40.4 per cent so obviously the situation is fairly dire. While I welcomed the heavy storms that we have had, I note that not a great deal fell in the dam catchment.

Mr Stevens: And they cancelled Wolffdene.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection: they cancelled Wolffdene. It was also a Labor government that planned dams without pipes, that built pipes without dams and that ripped up communities in and around the electorate of the member for Gympie for Traveston dam. When it comes to Labor and water, it is a bit like oil and water: it just does not mix.

The best way to increase water supply for the south-east and indeed the whole of Queensland is to have a government that plans for water infrastructure. We know that when it comes to water infrastructure the Palaszczuk government's record is dire. I need say no more than two words: Paradise Dam. It is the biggest infrastructure fail in Queensland's history—in fact, I would say in our nation's history. We on this side of the House know that water means jobs, productivity and security and hope for our primary producers, small businesses and families.

While we are on the topic of renewables, renewables need water as well. Go figure! Isn't that incredible? We know that this Labor government has not stepped up and committed to funding of new water projects like Urannah Dam, Nullinga Dam, Emu Swamp Dam, Nathan Dam, the raising of the Burdekin Falls Dam—

Mr Harper: What about Kidston? Kidston Hydro.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Absolutely. I support hydro 100 per cent, and I will tell the member why. It was a coalition government in Queensland that built Queensland's first hydro water plant, at Wivenhoe Dam. The way we can make these dams affordable is by adding hydro to it. That is exactly what the Urannah Dam project will do. We can add hydro to the water project—tick, tick. We have cheaper electricity. We also have water for farmers. That is how we make these infrastructure projects work.

It is shocking that those on the other side of this House think that just because they say the word 'renewable' they can yell out 'hydro' and think we would not support it. What an idiotic statement! It is we on this side that get that practical infrastructure projects like adding hydro to dams works. That is why we on this side of the House get why water means jobs. Water means jobs. Those on the other side have absolutely no clue.

What did they do with the Paradise Dam? They ripped down the dam wall. What do they do when they work out a town is running out of water? They send the Premier out without any information at all—and I am looking at the member for Southern Downs—where the Premier announces, 'The pipeline will be built by October 2020.' Well, it is now October 2021. How is that pipeline going, member for Southern Downs?

Mr LISTER: I think we've all forgotten about it.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: We on this side have not. We will continue to hold the government to account—

Mr Kelly: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): Member for Nanango, what you were saying was very interesting, but I ask you to come back to the long title of the bill.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Thank you, Madam Acting Speaker, I thought it was as well. I am happy to take that interjection because this bill actually amends many acts which do go into the water portfolio. It was the Minister for Water who was talking about the pipeline from Toowoomba and he announced it within his speech, yet, like the member for Southern Downs so rightfully called out, the people in his area know a furphy when they are fed it.

I will get back to the long title of the bill, but there are a couple of things I quickly want to say. The minister for mines, please just give the people for the Darling Downs some certainty and issue that mining licence. To the Minister for Water, if you are going to come in here and talk about water, how about you talk about water infrastructure, build some dams, and make sure that South-East Queensland has the water security that they are so desperately screaming out for.