



Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**


**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Water Infrastructure, Barlil Weir

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (7.00 pm): It gives me great pleasure to stand in this House tonight and talk about a much needed water project in the Nanango electorate, and that is Barlil Weir. As I have said so many times in this House, water is liquid gold. Unfortunately, we are not capturing enough water and putting it to good use. A prime example is the proposal for a 1,000 megalitre re-regulating weir on the Barambah Creek at Barlil in the South Burnett. This is a project that was first floated back in 2000. It was fully scoped, approved and designed and the site was purchased under the Burnett Catchment Water Infrastructure Project, but it was never built. The Barlil Weir was completely forgotten by those opposite. This is another example of how the Palaszczuk Labor government just does not get water infrastructure.

Thankfully, the primary producers of the South Burnett have not forgotten this project. It remains firmly on our radar as a piece of infrastructure which would provide the water security that we need. I have met with local primary producers who crop in that area, and they know that an investment in water is not only an investment in agriculture but an investment in hope and growth in this wonderful area. There is significant interest and support for the building of Barlil Weir. In fact, in early 2019 Sunwater made an application to the current Labor government to apply to the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund for funding. This money would have funded 49 per cent of the cost, but the Palaszczuk Labor government unfortunately did not support the application.

However, this is a viable project. It has been identified as one of the top water security projects by Jacobs consulting in their 2020 option analysis for the South Burnett water feasibility study, and that is why I backed it in the 2020 election with a promise to fund the project. At estimates this year I asked the Sunwater CEO, Mr Glenn Stockton, if the Barlil Weir was still on Sunwater's priority list. He said—

Barlil Weir continues to be assessed by Sunwater on an ongoing basis ... is likely to be identified as an opportunity for further planning through upcoming regional water assessments.

Last week I met with Stuart Nicholson, who represents the Barker-Barambah Creek irrigators. This irrigator and others want this project. The Barlil Weir stacks up and it deserves this government's support. The Labor government needs to stop ignoring these types of water security projects. On behalf of my local irrigators and the South Burnett community, I call on the Palaszczuk government to stump up and fund the Barlil Weir.