



Speech By  
**Colin Boyce**


**MEMBER FOR CALLIDE**

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Water Infrastructure**

 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (6.07 pm): I rise to speak about water infrastructure and the lack of commitment by the Labor Party, both state and federal. Yesterday we heard in this House glowing reports of how the government is going to restore Paradise Dam in the electorate of Callide back to its original capacity of some 33,000 megalitres of water to secure the future security and viability of the greater Bundaberg agricultural area. On behalf of the agricultural community and the general public of the Wide Bay area, we welcome this \$600 million commitment from the state government. We also recognise the federal Morrison Liberal National Party's commitment of a further \$600 million to ensure the rebuilding of Paradise Dam. This highlights the fact that it is the federal government that is prepared to clean up the Labor Party's mess—the greatest engineering failure in Australia's history—all managed by successive Labor Party governments right back to its original construction.

With regard to the Constitution and water infrastructure, planning, delivery and management is the domain of the state government. The federal government helps fund water infrastructure all over Australia, but in the end it is the responsibility of the state government to build this water infrastructure. The fact is that Labor governments have very little foresight or commitment to build or prepare for the future water needs of Queenslanders. As I speak the town of Mount Morgan, near Rockhampton, relies on water trucked up the range from the Fitzroy River near Rockhampton at a cost in excess of \$70,000 a week. What is the Labor Party government doing to address this problem? Furthermore, the Coordinator-General's report in respect of the Nathan Gorge dam has now lapsed. Why? The Nathan Gorge Dam is one of Australia's largest shovel-ready infrastructure projects, with all approvals in place.

If we are to have this industrial-scale hydrogen industry at Gladstone, where is the water coming from? Where is the planning and foresight you need for this industry? You need 10 litres of water to create a kilo of hydrogen. For the production of industrial quantities of hydrogen we will require industrial quantities of freshwater. With a federal election looming why has Mr Albanese, leader of the federal Labor Party, not made a commitment to match the \$600 million pledge of Barnaby Joyce, Deputy Prime Minister, to fix Paradise Dam? Because the Labor Party is not interested in water or agriculture. The state water minister, the member for Gladstone, Mr Butcher, needs to tell Queenslanders what his plans for water are. Water is critical to our growing needs. The Rookwood Weir on the Fitzroy River was the first to be announced in 2016 and now, six years later, we are still building it. It is too slow—too slow.