



Speech By  
**Dale Last**


**MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN**

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Record of Proceedings, 27 October 2022

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT**

**Urannah Dam**

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.06 pm): In my maiden speech I talked about the importance of water and, in fact, I called my maiden speech 'Just Add Water'. The centrepiece of course was the construction of the Urannah Dam in my electorate. My support for that project has not wavered since that time. It continues to this day because that is a dam project that does stack up. It is a dam project that offers massive opportunities not only for that Bowen-Collinsville area but also the broader North Queensland area. In terms of agricultural development and hydropower, it is a project that could be the cornerstone of North Queensland not to mention the jobs it would create during construction and ongoing after.

Whilst the LNP committed to that project in the lead-up to the 2020 election, those opposite would not commit. What they did do was throw a lot of barbs. Of course, the then resources minister called on Scott Morrison to deliver on Urannah. In May 2020 it was the Premier who was quoted in a media release as saying 'progressing projects like this will help to secure our state's future'. In fact, it was on 7 May 2020 that the Premier said that and she mentioned Urannah's potential to create up to 1,200 full-time equivalent jobs during construction and 675 full-time jobs once operations have commenced. Ironically, it was on that same date that the project was declared a coordinated project by the Coordinator-General. Surely that is not coincidence.

After the federal budget this week we do know that Labor no longer supports this project. Despite all the claims and the media stunts by those opposite, Urannah has fallen victim to the Prime Minister and his razor gang. The rug has been pulled out from beneath the feet of Collinsville and Bowen, and we will not forget that when it comes to the next election. It confirms what we have known all the way along that this mob do not build dams in Queensland.

I have news for this Labor government and their mates in Canberra. Despite their best efforts, Urannah is not dead. Whilst the project may take longer to complete, Bowen River Utilities and organisations like Bowen Collinsville Enterprise will do what people throughout regional Queensland have done for seven years: they will get on with the job and they will make that project happen, not with Labor support, but despite them.

This is a project which must be delivered for the future of Queensland and which must be delivered for the future of North Queensland. We are determined to make it happen.