




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 17 March 2022

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Water Security

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.31 pm): Today is a very exciting day for Queensland. In fact, it is a very exciting day for North Queensland with the Deputy Prime Minister's announcement of \$483 million for the Urannah Dam. I give a big shout-out to all of the local advocates and champions of the project. It is a project that I have been championing for years as have, of course, the member for Whitsunday, Amanda Camm; the candidate for Dawson, Andrew Willcox; the hardworking member for Capricornia, Michelle Landry; and, of course, the member for Burdekin, Dale Last.

All of those great local members have been supporting this project because they know that water security means a future for regional Queensland, which is exactly why the federal Morrison government have got behind the project and it is why the state LNP team have supported the project. I want to congratulate Bowen River Utilities—

Mr Brown interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order, member for Capalaba!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I cannot even hear what that person is saying. I congratulate Bowen River Utilities for their work on the project. It is because the state Labor government does not want to have anything to do with it that the federal government stepped in. This will be the only project built by a private proponent with the federal government because the state government does not want to build dams. Right now what we need to see is the state government getting out of the way. We need the approvals to be put in place so that the dam can be built. It will be built thanks to BRU and the federal government.

While I am talking about water projects, what about the stump from the water minister yesterday? He has had a bit of heat from the member for Bundaberg for ripping down the Paradise Dam wall and he comes out with a publicity stunt because he is nervous about the integrity scandals of this government. I can tell the House that the people of Wide Bay and the Burnett do not need another review. In actual fact, they do not need an announcement about an announcement in two years time. What they need is for this government to stop reviewing and start doing.

If this government does not have a clue about what water projects the Burnett and the Wide Bay region need, they can just come and have a chat to me because I can tell them right now: get started on the Barlil Weir. That would be a fantastic project. How about we start working on the Barambah scheme while we are at it? How about the government makes water prices a little bit more affordable for our farmers? That would be another good start. I will say it again: if the water minister does not know what projects to do, he can come and see me.