




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Green, Mr P; Water Infrastructure

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.27 pm): I would like to honour the memory of a Queensland great—Paul Green. Paul Green was a wonderful Queenslander, a fantastic coach, a family man and a great friend. I would like to pass on my deepest condolences to Paul's wife, Amanda, his beautiful children, Emerson and Jed, and his extended family. May he rest in peace.

We all read with incredible interest on the weekend about the new war that is being waged within the Palaszczuk government. We know that there are many wars going on between the factions. We have got ministers leaking against other ministers. We still have not found the minister who is leaking against the Premier. We have not found that one yet, but we are pretty sure we know exactly who it is. What was the war we read about in the paper on the weekend?

Mr McDonald interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection. It is the latest Palaszczuk government war, and it is the water war. What is this water war about? We actually saw it play out in parliament this morning when the Treasurer of Queensland took a water question from one of the backbenchers. The poor sceptical water minister was sitting there shaking his head thinking, 'My goodness me. I should be getting the water question, surely to goodness.' I wonder why? Because the water minister said he was sceptical about the Premier's brain snap around a desal plant on the Sunshine Coast. We have just seen the Deputy Leader of the Opposition with a big brief of RTI documents around the Caloundra jail. Imagine the documents that are going to be found in an RTI around apparently the Caloundra desal. How much is that going to cost? Did the people of Caloundra even know about it?

Honestly, all the people of Caloundra woke up on Sunday and saw the Premier's brain snap on the front page of the paper. The Premier knows that after seven years of leading this state there is still no water plan, no future water security. We have—

Government members interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Oh, here we go! We will take those interjections. The plan of these members is like the Premier at a press conference yesterday: she brings an umbrella on a sunny day because they are going to pray for rain. They are going to pray for rain!

Weren't they fortunate that the rain did fall earlier this year? However, we know—and the member for Lockyer is sitting up there—they had not even done the maintenance works to make sure that the lift pumps worked on Atkinson Dam. We still have North Pine Dam at 68 per cent since 2019. Why? Because the Minister for Water is unable to get to the Treasurer to fund upgrades to essential water. That is the problem. We have a water war raging.

We have a water minister who really is only responsible for one thing and that is water. In my next speech I will talk about why, with the other parts of his portfolio. Why? Because the Premier is refusing to listen to the water minister, the water minister obviously cannot talk to the Treasurer, and

the rest of the cabinet have no idea what the heavens is going on because all they think about is, 'We will just turn on the tap and water is going to flow. If it is not going to flow, we will have a brain snap and we will build another Labor failure which is a desal plant.' How much did that desal plant cost to build? It was \$1.2 billion! What a massive Labor fail! That is all this Labor government—

Mr Saunders interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Pause the clock. Member for Maryborough, you are warned.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: This is history repeating itself. We all know what happened. The Premier was actually a minister in the cabinet when we had the first desal plant. Goodness me! The Premier must have woken up and thought, 'Goodness, what can I do today? I am going to announce who knows how many billion dollar desal plants. We are not going to consult with the local community. We are not going to talk to the people of Caloundra. We are not going to talk to the people of the Sunny Coast and find out what they want, just like the Caloundra jail.' Honestly, the member for Caloundra needs to start listening to his community and he needs to do a bit more than send an email to the minister. He perhaps needs to talk to the Premier and say, 'Whoa, back. Hang on. Who is going to pay for it, where is the money and when is the community going to be consulted?'