



Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**

**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 August 2022


**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**

**APPROPRIATION BILL**

**Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)**

**Appropriation Bill**

**State Development and Regional Industries Committee, Report**


 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (12.56 pm): I rise to contribute to debate on the report of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee. It is great to have the Minister for Water in the chamber. I heard the committee chair say something like—and I cannot quite remember the words—that we did not ask any decent questions. I note that the member for Burleigh, who is in the chamber, and the member for Lockyer had fantastic questions. We had wonderful questions. It was unfortunate that the poor Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water could not answer them. We have to ask why.

The main reason is that this is a minister in name only. I feel a bit sorry for this minister. The reason I feel a bit sorry for this minister is that he is not responsible for anything. We saw what happened in the chamber this morning. We had to have the Treasurer answer a water question. They could not ask the question of the water minister. That is obvious because there is division in the Palaszczuk cabinet. We saw that on the weekend. The water minister is obviously fighting with the Treasurer and the Premier.

Let us talk about Paradise Dam. I am more than happy to do that. Where is the money? Show me the money! There is \$30 million allocated for a \$1.2 billion restoration project. They have the hide to come in here and talk about the mighty New Bradfield project. These jokers have a report on this. The report is on the minister's desk. This minister is either incapable or too incompetent to release the report. Where is the report? Who would know? It is probably sitting on this minister's desk. He cannot get it through the Treasurer and he cannot get it through the Premier.

Let's go to the area of manufacturing skills.

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 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.57 pm), continuing: I only have a short time left to speak. I wish that we had more time to speak on this report. At estimates the water minister was unable to tell us why there was no more money to restore Paradise Dam. This is an issue that came to light from a question on notice. I asked the minister a question on notice in relation to the restoration of

Cooby, Cressbrook and Gordonbrook dams. I asked why there was no funding for either the Toowoomba or the South Burnett regional councils to restore those dams and make significant upgrades. The minister responded—

The Toowoomba Regional Council and the South Burnett Regional Council are responsible for the Cooby, Cressbrook Creek and Gordonbrook Dams—

Tick. I agree with that. He went on to say—

My department, to date, has not received any requests for support or funding for the spillway projects for these dams.

Goodness me! I sent that answer to the mayors of Toowoomba and South Burnett councils, and guess what has happened? They have both come back and asked, 'What is the minister talking about? Our councils are always asking the minister for funding, and obviously none is forthcoming.' I will be considering that answer and, once I get that correspondence from the regional councils, I will be writing to Mr Speaker. I would hate to think that the poor embattled water minister has misled this House. If it is proven that he has, I will be writing to the Speaker to ensure the minister clarifies the record and clears that matter up.

I also want to talk about the failures of the water and manufacturing minister when it comes to Manufacturing Skills Queensland. We saw the big, shiny brochure from the Palaszczuk government during the last election which was great to see. I note that the Premier is in the chamber, so the Premier might be able to get this thing moving. We know that the minister for skills apparently has the responsibility to oversee Manufacturing Skills Queensland. It still has not been set up. When I asked the water and manufacturing minister what is happening with that, he said, 'I don't have any responsibility for that. That goes to the skills minister.' The skills minister obviously has not done anything either, so I again ask—and it is great to see the skills minister in the House: what is happening with Manufacturing Skills Queensland? Even the Premier today eventually acknowledged that we have a skills shortage in Queensland.