




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 28 October 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Water Infrastructure

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (12.30 pm): What a dark week for Queensland. What a dark week for rural and regional Queensland. What a dark week for the manufacturers and agricultural producers who rely upon water. What has happened? The federal Labor government has cut funding to Urannah Dam, Hells Gates Dam, Hughenden irrigation and Emu Swamp Dam. It is all gone. Where is the Minister for Water in this great state? The Minister for Water said words to the effect of, 'We don't need those projects because there are no business cases.' I remind the Minister for Water: not only have I spoken about this issue at estimates over several years and not only do we continue to talk about these projects; the minister himself knows, and has in the past acknowledged, that these vital projects do have business cases.

I refer the minister back to one of his predecessors, Steven Miles, who on 8 December 2020 talked about the investments the Palaszczuk government had made—\$24 million into the next-stage assessment for Hells Gates Dam and a declaration of the \$2.9 billion Urannah Dam as a coordinated project. He said that right here in the House. The minister before the most incompetent water minister Queensland has ever had was Dr Lynham. On 18 October 2018 he said in this House—

... feasibility studies or business cases are already underway for ... Urannah Dam ... We have action ...

That is exactly what a former water minister said. What do we have from the current water minister? Nothing, zilch, silence. Today in this chamber I asked the water minister if he and the government are waiting on business cases. They are already there; I can post them to him or just hand them over. When I asked where the business case for the Pioneer Valley project was, the minister was utterly silent. He knows that not only did the local authorities in the council not know but also the local Indigenous folk did not know about the Pioneer Valley proposal. All of the people who are going to lose their houses—about 70 people—did not know.

Mr Mellish: Why do you hate dams?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection. It is only the LNP that will stand up for building dams in this great state. From those opposite there is absolute silence. We have nothing. Worse, we have just heard that this water minister has called for a stop-work on all water assessments in this great state. They should hang their heads in shame. How could you stop water assessments?

(Time expired)