




Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

Record of Proceedings, 24 February 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Water

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (10.07 am): South-East Queensland has woken today to another wet morning and significant rainfall is predicted for the coming days. Of course our thoughts are with the people who have been affected and the communities that have been inundated, but when the clouds part there certainly will be a silver lining to this rain. This rain has given the South-East Queensland water catchments a massive boost. As of this morning the SEQ Water Grid is sitting at 71 per cent. That is a 10 per cent increase since the start of summer, putting the water grid more than 15 per cent higher than it was this time last year.

I cannot make the rain fall, as much as I would like to, but the SEQ Water Grid, built by a forward-thinking Queensland Labor government, means we can make the most of these precious drops. It is one of the largest urban water grids in Australia, servicing around 70 per cent of the state's population. Queensland's water resources are vital for our economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing and to drive economic growth and job opportunities for Queenslanders. Our largest water storage facility, Wivenhoe Dam, is above 57 per cent, as I said, and our second largest water storage facility, Somerset Dam, which flows into Wivenhoe, is just under 80 per cent, so this is good news. Operational releases from Somerset Dam happened overnight, and Seqwater is managing the grid to best preserve all of the water by moving water into central areas, including Brisbane, Ipswich and Logan.

We have a number of dams spilling right across the region, and I encourage Queenslanders to stay up to date with the Seqwater app. I know we are the Sunshine State, but a bit of rain certainly does a lot of good in these times. This is great news, but it does not mean we are in relaxation mode here in Queensland. With more heavy rainfall predicted over the coming days, Seqwater is continuing to monitor inflows right across all of our dams. With continued heavy rainfall forecast, we are reminding people, 'If it's flooded, forget it' and to stay away from fast-moving water.