



Speech By  
**Hon. Glenn Butcher**


**MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE**

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Regional Queensland, Water Security**

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (10.10 am): I would like to update the House on the great work being funded by the Palaszczuk government to support economic growth in three of Queensland's biggest foodbowl regions. We have invested over \$9 million across our Regional Water Assessment Program, focusing on three important regions: the Southern and Darling Downs, the Bundaberg-Burnett and the Tablelands regions.

**Mrs Frecklington:** How is that?

**Mr BUTCHER:** If you'd listen for a bit, I will tell you.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, I am listening but I would love you to make your comments through the chair. That would be fantastic.

**Mr BUTCHER:** We are working with local stakeholders to investigate long-term water security solutions that create economic opportunity and drive growth in all of our regions. In late 2021, work commenced in each region including important early investigations into service needs and hydrology. All of the assessments being done are well underway and I know my department and Sunwater are engaging with stakeholders right across those regions to determine the best solutions possible.

In the Bundaberg-Burnett region, Sunwater has hosted three stakeholder advisory group meetings and a detailed online survey has been released so irrigators can identify their future water demand. Last month in the Southern and Darling Downs, the findings on service needs were presented to a stakeholder advisory group and work is now underway to develop and shortlist options for further exploration. In the Tablelands, representatives from the Mareeba Shire Council, the Tablelands Regional Council and the Cairns Regional Council, along with representatives from the agriculture industry and other peak bodies, are participating actively.

I would like to acknowledge all of the local council and industry stakeholders who have made the time to support the process to date. We are getting on with the job and getting great support in every region we are doing this. We want to consult thoroughly and get all options on the table so that priority projects can be considered. We can then determine which infrastructure and non-infrastructure options will best be delivered for water security and economic growth suited to each of those regions.

This investment is further evidence of our commitment to water security right across Queensland. We are constantly working to improve water security and bolster economic growth and we are planning for the future of Queensland—unlike the federal LNP, which has not delivered one project in Queensland despite being in government for nine years. We are getting on with the job and they do not like it because they know we are getting it done. We do not just talk about water; we deliver it because we know that water investment, especially in regional Queensland, is critical to Queensland's economic prosperity.