



Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

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

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (3.33 pm): It is great to stand here tonight to speak in response to the estimates process. Today we heard from the shadow minister for water, manufacturing and the construction of dams. Talk about an 'embattled minister'! She is the most embattled shadow minister in the history of this parliament. The member for Nanango is an absolute disgrace when it comes to her portfolios. She comes in here like a headless chicken, screaming and squirming all over the place. She has no idea about anything to do with water.

When you start to prepare for estimates, the one thing you do is try to work out what questions will be asked. It is pretty hard to work out what members opposite will ask on estimates day when in 12 months the shadow minister does not ask me even one question in relation to my portfolio. If I were a shadow minister, I would be hammering my minister every day of the week. The member refuses to do it because she is silenced by the party she is a part of, led by one of the worst opposition leaders in Queensland's history. They booted her, like they continue to boot their members every day of the week. It is always sad when another female is booted from the opposition—an absolute failure.

Let's talk about Paradise Dam. I know the member for Bundaberg was very passionate about it in his speech. The member for Nanango pointed out that there is only \$30 million in this year's budget. Let's look back. For \$25 million the member for Nanango said that she would fix Paradise Dam. That is \$5 million less than what we have in the interim budget to get early works started on Paradise Dam. She continually tells people that we tore it down, but she will never respond to the comments concerning this being a safety issue for the constituents of Bundaberg. This government is fixing it and I am fixing it. For those opposite who do not know, the dam build is a three-year process. The money will continue to flow, as it is now.

Let's talk about current the Leader of the Opposition. In his budget reply speech, not once did he mention the word 'water'. For the shadow minister and the opposition leader to continually have a go at this government and at me as minister is an absolute embarrassment. As recently as yesterday the shadow minister was on radio complaining about the south-east corner water security plan. The announcer asked, 'What's your plan?' She said, 'We don't have a plan, but we're going to get one.' I let the member know today that there is a south-east corner water security plan. I will teach members how to find it: if they go to Google and type 'water security plan Seqwater', they will see exactly what is in there. It is a 30-year plan that is revised every five years.

The announcer went on to ask, 'What are your thoughts on a new dam? Where will you put it?' The member did not know; she had no idea. She just says that we need a new dam but she has no idea where it will go or what it will look like. Then he asked her whether she supported a desalination plant. The member had no idea and did not answer the question. She fluffed around and did not even want to answer. Then the announcer asked her whether she supports recycled water in Queensland. She did not answer. She did not know what she was talking about. She has no plan.

At estimates the shadow minister had the opportunity to ask a few decent questions but just rolled out absolute rubbish. There was no substance; she had no idea what she was doing. To be honest, I look forward to coming into the chamber at question time. Most times we get a bit nervous, thinking there might be a question, but I am pretty comfortable because I know for a fact that the shadow minister will never ask me a question. I have been in this job for just over 2½ years and I have received only one question. I think I had a minute to answer it. I urge the member for Nanango to get her facts straight, stop lying to the people of Queensland and stop leading everyone in this state astray.