



Speech By  
**Hon. Glenn Butcher**


**MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 August 2022

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Water Infrastructure**

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (10.12 am): The past six weeks have served as a reminder of just why we do this job—to make Queenslanders' lives better. The year's budget has taken this government's investment in water infrastructure to more than \$3.4 billion since 2015—good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle. I am proud to sit in this chamber and hear all of the ways that the Palaszczuk government is delivering on that, but it was even better to get out into the regions and announce all of our fantastic projects after the budget.

Standing at Number 7 Dam in Mount Morgan with the member for Rockhampton, Mayor Tony Williams and his councillors was a day that I certainly will not forget too soon. Mayor Williams said that \$40.4 million is a game changer for his region and guaranteed water supply—or, as he calls it, liquid gold to Mount Morgan. It means that people can not only think seriously about advancing industry and tourism but also not have to worry about the tap at home running dry.

The construction of the Toowoomba to Warwick pipeline, which we have committed more than \$300 million to, will deliver approximately 420 local jobs as well as long-term water security which is critical to good jobs, economic growth and livability in regional Queensland. Seqwater has delivered detailed designs for the pipeline and we will continue to work with the stakeholders as we move into the delivery phase of this pipeline. I am in regular contact with Mayor Pennisi and Mayor Antonio and look forward to seeing this happen shortly. Mr Speaker, it was fantastic to get up to your patch in Cairns with the Treasurer to announce our commitment to water security up there. We are also progressing on other important projects such as Rookwood Weir, and I will be going up to that site in the very near future. We are restoring Paradise Dam, we are finishing the South West Pipeline and we are investigating the raising of Burdekin Falls Dam.

Last week I was back in the Far North to catch up with the Mareeba and Tablelands mayors to talk about their grants from round 6 of Building our Regions funding. This round of the program is funding water and sewerage improvements right across regional Queensland—critical services that communities cannot survive without thanks to the \$70 million from this government and this Treasurer. Every dollar spent on these projects underpins creating more jobs and better services in this great state. I look forward to getting back out to the regions to see more of these projects that we have invested in underway and delivering for all Queensland communities.