




Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Water Security

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (10.55 am): Every day I am reminded of the fantastic work the Palaszczuk Labor government is doing to create good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle for Queenslanders. In Central Queensland we are currently building what will be the biggest weir constructed since World War II. Last week I stood on the riverbank of the \$376.2 million Rookwood Weir to mark one million hours of work on that critical project. We know that water security is central to our Queensland communities. When it is ready, Rookwood Weir will have a capacity of nearly 75,000 megalitres.

These things do not just happen overnight; they are the result of intense planning and a lot of hard work. The Rookwood Weir workforce is peaking at the moment, with more than 355 people working to keep this project progressing. That is everything from machine operators to geotechnical surveyors, engineers, chippies, sparkies, plumbers and mechanics. The list of good, solid jobs goes on. It was fantastic to see all the cogs turning as they should do while I was on site. I take this opportunity to thank the men and women at the Gogango site every day, working hard to get this critical Central Queensland job done.

As expected when completing work in a river catchment, there have been several flooding events which have certainly presented some difficulties along the way. The project team is making the most of the sunshine—and, as of last week, the moonlight—producing and pouring concrete around the clock. A concrete batch plant has been built onsite so that product can be made and used quickly and does not have to be trucked in. More than 40,000 square metres of concrete has been poured into the project. This is about 30 per cent of the total required for the weir and the supporting infrastructure.

There is always a lot of noise from those opposite that this government is not building water infrastructure, but there are a lot of people, with more than one million man hours of work clocked up, who can testify that we certainly are. In fact, the Palaszczuk Labor government has a more than \$3.4 billion record of investing in water in this great state. I look forward to watching more of these critical projects come to life.