




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 15 November 2023

MOTION

Infrastructure

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (4.22 pm): I rise with much pleasure to speak on this motion and to follow the member for Pumicestone, 'Desali King'.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member, you will use correct titles in this chamber.

Mr POWELL: It is interesting. There is one element of this motion that 'notes that cutting infrastructure will jeopardise jobs and leaves the state without the infrastructure it needs for a growing population'. We in this House know that for many years our shadow minister for water has been calling on the state government to start building the water infrastructure that particularly South-East Queensland needs. Finally, they came out with a water plan, and what did it include?

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The members for Nanango and Lytton will cease their quarrelling across the chamber.

Mr POWELL: What did it include? It included a desalination plant somewhere north of Brisbane and south of the Sunshine Coast. The motion talks about jeopardising jobs and leaving the state without the infrastructure it needs for a growing population and there is also reference to utilities. However, the Minister for Water on two occasions was given the opportunity to rule out a desalination plant being built on Bribie Island—first here in the chamber when he was asked a question by the shadow minister for water. He was pulled up on relevance by me and was pulled up on relevance by the Speaker.

Ms KING: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Glass House is currently deliberately misleading the House and I will be writing to you about this matter.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, that is not a point of order. There is a process for members to follow if they believe someone is misleading the House. I will consider any further points of order of that nature to be frivolous and there will be warnings given. If you want to deal with misleading the House, follow the process for that.

Mr POWELL: He was asked in the chamber to rule it out, and he would not. He was then asked by a reporter with the *Island and Surrounds News* to rule out a desalination plant on Bribie Island, and again would not. He said that Seqwater are undertaking business planning to identify the right location. It is surprising that today we have seen a joint statement from no other than the Deputy Premier, the member for Pumicestone's good friend, and the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water now categorically ruling out a desalination plant—one of those utilities that is mentioned in the motion—on Bribie Island.

The water minister somehow claims that he had repeatedly said that a new desalination plant is not going to be built on Bribie Island. Actually the opposite is true. On two or three occasions he did not do so. It is interesting that the Deputy Premier has had to step in and categorically rule it out. What is not written in the media release is that they are not ruling it out being built somewhere else in Pumicestone. It might be at Sandstone Point. It might be at Ningi. It might be at Toorbul or Donnybrook or Beachmere.

The only way that the people of Pumicestone can categorically rule out a desalination plant being built in the seat of Pumicestone is if they vote for the LNP at the next state election. I thank the Deputy Premier for providing this motion this afternoon to call on the Labor Party who cannot come clean with the people of Pumicestone, let alone the people of Queensland.

(Time expired)