




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 12 September 2023

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Water Security

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.31 pm): I tell you what an LNP government will do and that would be plan for the future of water security for this great state. We would plan for Seqwater to meet the demands of the population growth that are coming our way. We would spend 10 years doing something, rather than doing what those opposite have done—sitting on their hands. Queenslanders are looking down the barrel of water restrictions. We have Wivenhoe Dam sitting at 70 per cent and predicted within the next two years to be down to 50 per cent. We know that that means more restrictions for people in South-East Queensland. One might ask why we got here? How did we get here? The last time there was a plan for water was back in 2013, and that was by the former LNP government. Then what did these jokers opposite do when they got in? They just ripped it up. There was a plan for the future. What have they done? Simply nothing. Nearly a decade later, we have no more infrastructure and no plans for infrastructure. Any ideas as to where the water will come from are not even on the table.

All the leaks that are coming to us, especially from Seqwater—and we know that Sunwater are leaking to our side as well—the leaks from the people of Seqwater and the information that is coming to us says they are sick of a tired government that is so riddled with chaos and crisis that they cannot even plan for people to have drinking water when the Olympics will be here.

Mr McDonald: They want dams.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection. They do want dams. The Deputy Premier talks big about population projections with 2.2 million or more people calling South-East Queensland home by 2046, taking the population to six million, but we have not seen even an iota of a plan to go towards giving those people water. Looking at those opposite, their heads are down because they know that they have done absolutely nothing when it comes to building any form of water infrastructure for South-East Queensland. We know that when—

Mr Healy interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I take personal offence. I ask that that be withdrawn. That is pretty ordinary behaviour.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): I am not sure who that was. Member for Cairns, will you withdraw?

Mr HEALY: Withdraw the yawn?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Cairns, will you withdraw?

Mr HEALY: I withdraw.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I know I have taken up a lot of my time talking about water for South-East Queensland and the restrictions that are coming, but it is because this inept, incapable government are unable to plan for the future water security for the south-east corner. There will be no more water

infrastructure. They did not even think to perhaps increase dam capacity. No wonder when you have members like the member for Cairns, who will soon be replaced by the wonderful Yolonde Entsch up in Cairns, because they do not have any plans for water in Far North Queensland either. The business case was made so difficult. They tried to say that you had to pay for a dam—sorry, a dam's life would only go over, I think it was, 20 or 25 years. No wonder the incompetent, inept Palaszczuk Labor government are so riddled with chaos and confusion, they cannot even realise and no wonder infrastructure will not be built under those projections. Let's bring on Yolonde Entsch in Cairns because the behaviour of the member for Cairns is absolutely showing.

We know it is unfortunate that Brisbane and the south-east corner could possibly be under water restrictions in a very short period of time—hopefully not. What is the solution of the Palaszczuk government? They have decided the solution is to put ads on the back of buses. We know that that was going to be the solution before we thankfully had a fair bit of rain over last summer, but it is obvious—

Mr Walker: Have some water.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Excuse me. Thank you.

Mr Crisafulli: It is in short supply.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will be careful with how much water I do drink because we know that it is in short supply. I will take the leader's interjection in relation to that. No wonder there are so many leaks coming from the backbench in relation to the chaos and confusion of this government. They know in regards to their Brisbane seats, if and when water restrictions come into place, they will be the ones who will be answerable to their electorate when they know that no planning has been done and nothing has been built. That is why we need an LNP government.