



Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**


**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

---

Record of Proceedings, 16 November 2023

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Desalination Plant**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.40 pm): It is difficult to rise after such a moving speech by the member for Nicklin, but I want to prove I had already written this speech and was intending to talk about the water wars in Queensland that stem from a complete lack of planning from the Palaszczuk government. We know that the front page of the *Courier-Mail* on 14 August of last year had the headline 'Water war', but I want to move onto the 'desal wars' that we are having with the Palaszczuk government.

We know that there is an argument going on between the member for Pumicestone, the water minister and the Deputy Premier, so I thought it would be important to go through a timeline in relation to this. It was on 10 October this year that the Premier publicly announced a desal plant costing \$8 billion, but when she was questioned there were no details and no location. She did not have a clue about the capacity and there had been no consultation. In the media conference the Premier flippantly said, 'It might be Kawana'. Out of the blue, she said Kawana. Then the water minister was asked about the location and he said, 'Some people are talking Kawana and some people are talking Bribie Island'. On 11 October, I asked a question without notice of the water minister. He had the opportunity to rule out Bribie Island, Kawana or Caloundra. He did not rule out any of those locations. In actual fact, the water minister provided comments to the Bribie Island paper on 15 November which stated—

As I have already said, the best location will be determined by SEQ Water during the development of its detailed business case.

During this phase SEQ Water will be exploring potential locations, the capacity, the timing of delivery ...

That was on 15 November. Then that afternoon what did the Deputy Premier do? He waited for the water minister to be on sick leave to overrule the water minister and to overrule Seqwater's consultation with local communities.

The question now is: where is the government's proposed \$8 billion, because there is no money in the budget, no planning and no community consultation for this desalination plant? Where is the desalination plant going to be? Is it going to be in Caloundra? That is the latest intel. Is it going to be in Kawana? When will the Palaszczuk government front up to the people of Bribie Island and give them a rock-solid guarantee? We cannot trust a thing that the Palaszczuk government say. Before the last election they said that there would be no increased or new taxes—that was a complete untruth. The only way to have satisfaction is to vote in the LNP.