




Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

Record of Proceedings, 15 March 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Water Infrastructure, Toowoomba to Warwick Pipeline

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (10.11 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government has a long, proud record of delivering water infrastructure and planning right across Queensland—a record to the tune of more than \$4.5 billion since we have been in government. This means that our government’s support of game-changing water projects has created 2,940 good jobs in construction, and even more in those operational phases. The Palaszczuk Labor government’s latest infrastructure project is the Toowoomba to Warwick Pipeline.

We started in 2023 with the announcement that the Palaszczuk Labor government has officially signed off on more than \$300 million to fund the Toowoomba to Warwick Pipeline. We know how hard the Southern Downs was hit by drought. I have seen Storm King Dam dry and Leslie Dam down to four per cent. We have water in the dams now, but we know we cannot always rely on the rain. That is why the Palaszczuk Labor government committed to delivering the Toowoomba to Warwick Pipeline. This vital piece of water infrastructure will be critical for the region’s future water security for a long time, and it will also mean more than 400 good, local, regional jobs.

While negotiations have been taking place, preconstruction activities, including progressing the necessary environmental and native title approvals, have been continuing. The next stage of early works will include geotechnical works, final route determination, landowner engagement and the final detailed design. This project again demonstrates how the Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering vital water infrastructure right across Queensland.

On top of the pipeline, the Palaszczuk Labor government is also funding upgrades to the Wivenhoe pump station to boost its capacity, constructing new water treatment facilities along the pipeline route and installing network monitoring to reduce losses in the Southern Downs region. This project means Toowoomba’s satellite communities of Cambooya, Greenmount, Nobby and Clifton will have access to treated water, which they have not had before, via the pipeline.

I know how important the pipeline is for both councils, and I want to thank the Toowoomba and the Southern Downs regional councils for the work they have been doing together with us on this project, which will be critical for the region’s future water security.

The Palaszczuk Labor government will continue to deliver water infrastructure across Queensland. Delivering infrastructure supports regional development, and it creates good, secure jobs right across Queensland.