



Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2023


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

State Development and Regional Industries Committee, Report

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (3.14 pm): I am proud to be a minister in the Palaszczuk Labor government which is focused on cost-of-living relief, creating jobs and delivering Queensland's largest ever infrastructure pipeline: the Big Build. My estimates session was an important opportunity to highlight all of the projects being delivered across the regional development, manufacturing and water portfolios. I would like to thank the committee and particularly the member for Bancroft for his management of the session so late in the afternoon. I do not often get a chance to answer questions during sitting weeks because seemingly the member for Nanango is not allowed by those opposite to ask portfolio questions in this chamber, and I feel sorry for her about that. I understand that this year 78 per cent of estimates questions were for non-government members, but unsurprisingly the LNP wasted their questions in my session. Predictably, their copy-and-paste statement of reservation was just as lazy as their performance during estimates. As the member for Nanango claimed in a media release after estimates, she apparently grilled me on Rookwood Weir. The member only asked me one question about the project during estimates. I would not call that a grilling.

In the budget we very clearly outlined our increased Rookwood Weir investment to support construction completion this year. I am pleased to report that Rookwood Weir is 90 per cent complete and is on track to be completed by the end of this year. All of the LNP's noise about costs only means one thing in this place: they want to cut it. When it comes to Rookwood Weir, I see up to 150,000 megalitres of new water allocations; new job opportunities and better water security; and over 360 jobs and 30 apprentices and trainees here in Queensland. Clearly the LNP sees something else, and that is what they can cut. They have form when it comes to cutting, sacking and selling. They wanted to sell off parts of Sunwater and they said that new water infrastructure must be built by the private sector. This government is building the infrastructure they talk about prioritising. If the LNP got their way and sold parts of Sunwater, Rookwood Weir would not have happened in the first place.

The member for Nanango cannot stand the fact that under a Palaszczuk Labor government water infrastructure projects are being delivered here in Queensland. Let's remember that, despite all the huff and puff from those opposite and all of their talk about building 100 dams in Queensland, when they were in government they did not build one single dam—not one. They did not even start a project. Let

me remind the House of more funding locked into our budget for our Big Build here in Queensland, including: \$440 million to raise Burdekin Falls Dam, taking the total down payment to \$540 million; \$116.4 million for Paradise Dam to be spent this year alone; more than \$300 million for the Toowoomba to Warwick pipeline; \$548.5 million for the Fitzroy to Gladstone pipeline out of a total \$983 million; and \$40.4 million from the Palaszczuk Labor government for the Mount Morgan pipeline. These are just the headlines.

Do not get me started on manufacturing. Manufacturing in Queensland has been transformed by the Palaszczuk Labor government. It has received more attention and investment than ever before. Before the Palaszczuk Labor government there was not even a manufacturing minister here in Queensland. Our government has invested in the manufacturing sector in Queensland to support 180,000 new jobs for Queenslanders, and their families rely on it. We are building trains back in Queensland. We are building them in Maryborough. I also want to say that the member for Nanango should go to Maryborough and talk to the potentially 800 families who are going to have kids, apprentices and jobs on the ground in Maryborough while this government is building trains here in Queensland. Not only are we going to build them in Maryborough but we are also going to get the supply chain in Rockhampton and Ipswich. While the investment in train manufacturing in Queensland is going on we will be fixing the LNP's stuff-ups from when they got trains overseas rather than investing in Queensland manufacturers in places like Maryborough. I have been out there on site with the local member and I know how proud Maryborough is that they are building trains here in Queensland.