




Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Water Infrastructure

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (9.57 am): No matter where you go in our great state, the Palaszczuk government's Big Build means good jobs in our regions and delivering the infrastructure that Queensland communities need to grow and to thrive. When it comes to water infrastructure, the Palaszczuk government continues to deliver for this state. We have the amazing Rookwood Weir, the Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline, the raising of Burdekin Falls Dam, Big Rocks Weir, stages 1 and 2 of Haughton Pipeline, Mount Morgan Pipeline, Paradise Dam Improvement Project, Isisford Weir, the Toowoomba to Warwick Pipeline, the Southwest Pipeline to Beaudesert, the Cairns Water Security project, the Southern Downs Drought Resilience Package, and multiple dam safety improvement projects going on right across the state—and that is just to name a few.

We cannot forget the 99 water and sewerage projects that are currently underway across 50 of our regional councils, thanks to Building our Regions round 6—so many projects all part of the Palaszczuk government's Big Build in Queensland. We are seeing significant investment in water infrastructure, transforming Queensland. Take Rookwood Weir for example. Late last month the final concrete pour for the weir crest was completed. This means that that weir is now 98 per cent complete and on track for completion in a few months.

That is the Big Build creating big weirs giving us big opportunities for more regional jobs. Rookwood Weir really is a sight to behold. Honourable members have to go there and see it firsthand to really appreciate what a feat that weir construction has been. It is a massive project delivered in a live river environment that has been impacted by multiple inundation events during its construction. The weir has supported more than 360 local workers onsite during peak construction and created more jobs down the supply chain with more than \$250 million spent in Central Queensland alone.

Rookwood Weir is so much more than just a piece of water infrastructure in Queensland and its benefits go far beyond the water security and irrigators. It is a job generator, it is a capacity builder and it is a legacy project of the Big Build that Central Queenslanders can be so proud of.

On the topic of job generators, the Fitzroy-to-Gladstone pipeline really highlights how water can unlock economic growth. I am not just talking about the 400 local jobs and the 25 apprenticeships during construction; I am talking about future hydrogen opportunities and further investment in jobs that the 117-kilometre pipeline will unlock for the future of Queensland.

Whether it is the \$5.2 billion in water infrastructure delivered by the Palaszczuk government since 2015 or the planning work that is underway across the state, Queenslanders can be certain this government will deliver the infrastructure needed not just now but into the future.