



Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Rookwood Weir

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (10.04 am): If anyone needs further proof of the Palaszczuk government's record of water infrastructure delivery they need look no further than Rookwood Weir. I am pleased to advise the House that this amazing infrastructure project is now complete. When I was sworn in as the water minister, the Premier said delivering Rookwood Weir was a priority for me in my portfolio. As a proud Central Queenslander, I was more than happy to take on that challenge. Last Wednesday was an absolutely fantastic day out at Rookwood Weir. Almost three years to the day I was sworn in, I stood alongside the Treasurer and the member for Rockhampton to help celebrate the completion of this fantastic infrastructure project.

The significance of this piece of infrastructure cannot be underestimated. Let me set out some of the numbers from this project. There were nearly 360 workers at the height of construction. They overcame six inundations during the project and also had a COVID shutdown for two weeks. They poured 131,000 cubic metres of concrete and undertook 800,000 cubic metres of earthworks. All of this was to unlock 86,000 megalitres of additional water for Central Queensland, equivalent to 34,400 Olympic-size swimming pools, and that will be delivered every year. This water will also create over 500 jobs in the region.

This weir is the biggest weir built in Australia since World War II. It will provide water security for Central Queensland. It is already helping to create a new high-value agriculture sector and will usher in new jobs in future industries. This weir is the real deal. It is good for construction jobs, it is good for agriculture, it is good for local roads, it is good for urban water security and it is also good for the future hydrogen industry in Central Queensland. When it comes to the infrastructure our communities need, the Palaszczuk government delivers time and time again. The weir is not only Australia's biggest weir built since World War II; it is the biggest piece of bulk water infrastructure delivered in the nation in over a decade. Do honourable members know what the biggest one was before that? It was Wyaralong Dam—another Labor built dam here in Queensland. That is right: we invest and we deliver.

We had to drag the former LNP federal government kicking and screaming to help support this new project of a weir in Rockhampton. We will always stand up for Central Queensland and demand our fair share from Canberra. That is how we got commitments from the current federal government for the Mount Morgan pipeline, Paradise Dam, regional water assessments and the Cairns Water Security Project. Regional Queensland knows that the Palaszczuk government will always go in to bat for them so that we can deliver the infrastructure and the jobs that are needed to grow this state.