




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Kawana Electorate, Desalination Plant

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): I rise to speak about the desalination debacle that has unfolded in Queensland in the last few days, particularly the anxiety it has created in the electorate of Kawana. We woke up this week to newspaper reports that the Premier had decided that she was going to build a desalination plant in Queensland—a desalination plant whose location was not disclosed; a desalination plant that was going to cost between \$4 billion and \$8 billion. They are about \$4 billion out; it is somewhere around there. There was no plan, no funding and no location, or so we thought. Then when the Premier was asked at a press conference about the desalination plant, she flippantly said, 'It might be Kawana.' Out of the blue, she just flippantly said at the press conference 'Kawana'.

Then when the water minister was asked about the location of this proposed desalination plant, he said, 'Some people are talking Kawana, some people are talking Bribie Island, but we are not talking about that.' That was despite the fact his boss, the Premier, was standing two feet away from him and said Kawana was looking like a location for a desalination plant. I cannot underestimate the anxiety this has caused in my community with not knowing where this desalination plant is proposed to be situated by this Premier. Which beach in Kawana will it be on? Will it be on Kawana Beach, Wurtulla, Buddina, Warana, Currimundi, or will it be on the Caloundra beach? Is the member for Caloundra's electorate going to have this desalination plant?

The beaches of Kawana have the endangered loggerhead turtles nesting along the coastline. For the Premier to simply come out and say, 'A desalination plant is likely going to be built at Kawana,' without any community consultation with my electorate, has caused the Kawana people a great deal of anxiety. They do not know what the Premier means. Does the Premier mean it is going to go in Kawana? Who knows, because when the water minister was asked this week whether it was going to go in Bribie Island, he did not rule it out. Is the member for Pumicestone's electorate going to get the desalination plant, or are my residents in Kawana going to get the desalination plant allegedly proposed by the Premier—a project they say could cost up to \$8 billion.

The Premier has caused unnecessary angst in my community because they have announced a plan that is not really a plan. It is just an announcement. It reminds me of when the Premier came up with the Gabba cost of a billion dollars because she had to make a media announcement. They needed a water announcement because in nine years the Palaszczuk Labor government has not done anything in water security in Queensland. Now all of a sudden Kawana might be the location of a proposed desalination plant. It has caused great anxiety in my community. I call on the Premier to apologise. I thank the shadow water minister, Deb Frecklington, for caring about my electorate more than the Premier does.