




Speech By
Bryson Head

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

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ADJOURNMENT

Paradise Dam

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (7.24 pm): Paradise Dam: what a disgrace; what a debacle! The food producers in the Wide Bay are furious, and rightly so. On 18 December last year Labor answered my question on notice regarding the repair of Paradise Dam with no mention of further failure discoveries. It suggested things were progressing well. It did give one clue in the response that the water minister knew more than he was letting on. Buried at the bottom, he said that Sunwater will provide an update to the community in early 2024. Well, we now know what this update was about—Paradise cannot be rebuilt. If the water minister knew about this then I have no doubt that the member for Bundaberg knew about it too. This in turn shows just how ludicrous the false outrage by the member for Bundaberg was—or, should I say, the soon-to-be-former member for Bundaberg. Even his own team seems to know this, so it gave him the first Dorothy Dixer of the year. The member for Bundaberg turns up and says that he is a champion for his community. The Paradise debacle proves what a fraud he is. Meanwhile, the future member for Bundaberg, the hardworking Bree Watson, knows what farmers and the Bundaberg region need.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member, I would ask you to withdraw that unparliamentary language.

Mr HEAD: I withdraw. The Bundaberg region needs transparency, honesty and more water, not less, and Bree Watson will deliver. The Paradise Dam debacle is Labor's mess, complete with the classic Labor cover-up and a solid dose of Labor spin. I ask the question: when did the minister and the Premier know about this? How long have they been hiding this from Queenslanders? Did the new Premier hold this over to ensure he did not get caught out giggling about an incredibly important issue? When will Labor be fully transparent with Queenslanders and table every single document that shows what really happened? Queenslanders deserve the truth and we deserve the opportunity to learn from these mistakes so they cannot be repeated. It is clear that heads should roll, but Labor will always look after its mates before it looks after Queenslanders.

Farmers are already facing some of the most uncertain growing conditions on record, excessive red and green tape and skyrocketing cost-of-living pressures. This is the last thing they need and this debacle stops new agricultural industry development in the Wide Bay. We know Labor's failures at Paradise are already pushing up the cost of fresh fruit and vegetables, and that is a huge blow for Queenslanders struggling to feed their families. As this dam crumbles, so does Labor's credibility in providing water security for Queenslanders. The next election is a clear choice—the choice between the LNP, which will build dams, or the tired old Labor government, which tears them down because it cannot build them properly. Only the LNP has the right priorities for Queensland's future.