




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Paradise Dam

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.51 pm): This week we have talked a lot about the debacle and the catastrophe that was the Callide explosion, but in the short period that I have I want to talk about saving Queenslanders from paying for Labor's failures, which is one of our LNP priorities. When one talks about failures, one needs to look no further than the Paradise Dam debacle. When a government gambles with grower security, is it any wonder that grower confidence is shattered? We all know that when grower confidence erodes, the planting gets pulled back, supply reduces and inevitably the cost of fresh fruit and vegetables increases. Worst of all, those opposite simply do not get it, nor does the member for Bundaberg. Make no mistake, this government's complete mismanagement around Paradise Dam has and will continue to push up the prices of fruit and vegetables in what is one of our state's most valuable food bowls.

Mr Weir: Adding to the cost of living.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection. We know that what happened to Paradise Dam is a damn disgrace. How did it get to this? An article by James Taylor of the *Courier-Mail* that was published in the *Bundaberg NewsMail* on Tuesday summed it up very well with the headline 'Mistakes, missteps, personal conflict behind flawed construction of Paradise Dam'. After almost 10 years of Labor, I guess we should not be surprised. Premier Miles needs to come clean and explain what he knew, when he knew it and if downstream communities in Bundaberg were ever at risk of harm.

Former premier Peter Beattie had to defend himself from the joke of the member for Bundaberg, who stood up and said, 'It's all Peter Beattie's fault!' The water minister was standing behind him and had a bit of a grin on his face and thought, 'Oops, no, I'd better not laugh.' You have to love it; Peter Beattie, the former premier who was the premier when Paradise was built, said, 'Well, if the problems were identified years ago why has there been such a delay?' I am on the same page as Peter Beattie. Honestly, the fake outrage by the member for Bundaberg was completely laughable. He embodies what it means to be a Labor member of parliament: everything is everyone else's fault. He is quick to blame, but does not let the truth get in the way of a good story. That is exactly why the good people of Bundaberg need to elect Bree Watson, because she stood up for the growers and she knows that we need to show Labor the door in '24.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Before I call the next speaker, member for Nanango, you used some unparliamentary language. I ask you to withdraw.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw.