




Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Water Infrastructure

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (10.21 am): We know that councils are at the front line when it comes to delivering local infrastructure like water supply, and the Miles Labor government is right there with them. We roll up our sleeves to help, we roll out the funding to support them and we deliver for our Queensland communities.

I am pleased to advise the House that the Gracemere to Mount Morgan pipeline is now one-third complete. More than 10 kilometres of pipe has been laid along three sections, with design work being finalised for the new pump stations and reservoirs along the route. I acknowledge the member for Rockhampton, who was out there with me recently, along with Mayor Tony Williams. I was not in the trenches but I certainly saw the workers who are doing the work. There are machinery and workers on site right now. It is great to see that project forging ahead for Central Queensland, supporting 50 local jobs along the way, which is fantastic.

I am pleased to advise the House that this project is expected to be complete by September 2025, weather permitting. The Miles government proudly provided \$40.4 million to fund the delivery of this project. It is another fantastic investment by the Miles Labor government. The mayor of Rockhampton said one thing that really stuck out to me. He said—

Funding from the Australian and Queensland Governments for this and other projects helps us to put downward pressure on rates and water charges—that's money Rocky ratepayers don't need to fork out for.

That is so true. We are rolling out the funding so that councils like the Rockhampton council do not need to pass on the full costs of infrastructure to their ratepayers.

This is an important project for the Mount Morgan community. It highlights how fundamental water security is for economic development in regional communities. There is a real optimism in the community right now, not only because of the pipeline but also on the back of Heritage Minerals' exciting plans for a future goldmine. In Rockhampton, I spoke to the federal resources minister, Catherine King, about how important Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility financing is to get the project off the ground. It is an exciting project for the community.

When councils ask us for help, we help. We provided assistance to the Douglas Shire Council in its emergency response to Cyclone Jasper. We are delivering the Toowoomba to Warwick pipeline and the Mount Morgan pipeline. We are investing in Building our Regions round 6 projects. The state government is rolling up our sleeves to help our regional councils. I am proud to be part of a Miles Labor government that is delivering the infrastructure that our growing state needs. We are getting on with the job and we are delivering. Our councils know that the Miles Labor government will always support them. This is all possible because in Queensland we support progressive coal royalties and making multinational mining companies pay their fair share.