




Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

Record of Proceedings, 13 June 2024

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE
AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL; STATE FINANCIAL
INSTRUCTIONS AND METWAY MERGER AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (12.03 am): You know what they say: nothing good happens after midnight. I will give it a crack and see how we go.

This is a budget that is good for your hip pocket. It is good for jobs and good for infrastructure. This budget is further proof that the Miles Labor government in Queensland is absolutely focused on delivering. There is always more we can do, and we will.

I will talk about sport in Gladstone in particular. I love my sport in Gladstone. I know that the \$200 FairPlay vouchers have gone down extremely well in my electorate. Kids will certainly benefit from that in the future. The Miles Labor government is committed to delivering infrastructure in our growing community of Gladstone, from funding for our schools to more support for those locals who need it most and to a major injection into job-creating industries. There are some investments in the budget that certainly deliver for my community.

I am glad to see that there is \$6 million in the budget to complete the feasibility work on a new desalination plant in Gladstone. This is a critically important project to help us to unlock the potential of the green hydrogen industry coming to Gladstone, and this builds on the commitment of the Labor government building the Fitzroy to Gladstone pipeline and, of course, Rookwood Weir near Rockhampton.

Gladstone's unmatched renewable network is receiving a major boost, with \$92 million allocated to CleanCo, our publicly owned energy generator, to progress renewables in the region and right across Central Queensland. Some \$33.9 million will go to progressing the Northern Land Expansion project at the Gladstone port to help release additional land at the port to assist with more developments coming through with energy and other industries.

There is also \$20 million in the 2024-25 budget for the construction of the Gladstone transmission training hub—a purpose-built training centre to support regional growth of the electricity network in the region and more training opportunities for locals to harness. Other initiatives that will have a big impact in the Gladstone region are \$16.3 million towards a \$30 million brand new industrial tech building at Gladstone State High plus \$10 million at Toolooa State High going towards new learning spaces and another \$90,000 for facilities across that school. Gladstone Central State School, the oldest school in Gladstone, will receive \$2 million towards the \$15 million new hall they are building. Some \$864,000 has been allocated to the housing and homeless hub in Gladstone, which is absolutely fantastic.

We also have funding to enhance school sports. Three sports clubs will receive funding for the upgrades they need: the BITS Saints AFL Club, \$350,000 for new change rooms; the Boyne Tannum Sharks soccer club, \$337,000; and, \$333,000 for Gladstone Amateur Basketball. There is more coming in that portfolio.

When it comes to manufacturing, this budget continues to deliver. We have created over 7,400 jobs in Queensland so far thanks to our manufacturing investment, and this budget will certainly help that number grow. The hugely successful Made in Queensland grant program continues. We have an extra \$20 million of new funding to continue this fantastic program in Queensland. Made in Queensland helps our manufacturers get to the next level by embracing new technologies, increasing productivity and improving their competitiveness. We have already funded 129 projects here in Queensland, and that will continue on.

Our manufacturing hubs here in Queensland have also been a huge success, and they will continue to receive extra funding. Last year I announced the new train manufacturing program under my portfolio. We are making trains here in Queensland again. We are building a once-in-a-generation pipeline of local supply opportunities, and small and medium-sized manufacturers are going to benefit as well. Let's not forget that the LNP let the trains go overseas, just like their Canberra mates did with the car industry. Those opposite are still playing small target, but manufacturers show what they are really about—offshoring, cutting and sacking. This budget has an extra \$20 million to restore the Rockhampton railyard. The member for Rockhampton will certainly be pleased with that. It is a huge opportunity for them.

When it comes to regional development, it is crystal clear that the Labor Party is for the regions. Those opposite are just pretending. They are a party of fake miners, fake nurses and fake dams. They promise all these dams and they deliver consultant reports, plans marked 'not for construction' and white noise across the board. More than \$1.1 billion of funding has been locked in to deliver water security right across Queensland in this budget. One of our most valuable resources is the Great Artesian Basin. It is an absolutely amazing source and we are going to invest \$32 million into that fantastic project.

There is plenty more to get on with in the region and in Queensland. We are funding \$195 million for the Cairns Water Security project. We have more funding in the Burdekin Falls Dam project. The Toowoomba to Warwick pipeline is locked in. The Fitzroy to Gladstone pipeline is locked in. There is more money out the door for the Mount Morgan pipeline, plus, of course, funding for planning and enabling works for the new Paradise Dam wall.

Mr Deputy Speaker, you have reviewed and approved my speech on the budget for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

We will always do what's right for Queensland and we will always put Queenslanders first.

We're putting our border communities first by creating Queensland's first Cross-Border Commissioner.

This new role will help tackle cross-border issues and work collaboratively with NSW on areas of shared interest, including service delivery, economic opportunities, policing and transport. Border communities asked for this and the Miles Government has listened and we have delivered.

Water security and services throughout the state have been reaffirmed as a priority for this government, with \$1.1 billion in funding locked in for crucial water projects.

The Budget has allocated \$200,000 to work collaboratively with the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC) to help the group manage water on Minjerribah (North Stradbroke) Island. This work supports the Minjerribah Futures project, a strategy to develop cultural and eco-tourism opportunities.

Mr Speaker, with this budget I am proud to say that the Queensland Government's outstanding track record on water infrastructure remains strong. We've invested \$5.8 billion in water infrastructure, creating 3,550 construction jobs.

Speaking of our track record, this financial year we've seen the completion of Rookwood Weir, the largest weir built in Australia since World War II. By every measure this project is a success. Completed in late 2023, the weir filled and spilled by December 2023. Earlier this year, it won the Premier's Award for Excellence for Planning and Infrastructure and received an 'excellent' rating by the Infrastructure Sustainability Council. The weir will have up to 86,000 megalitres of water available annually to Central Queensland for agriculture, urban and industrial use.

Looking forward, we are continuing our work on one of the state's most important projects, raising our largest dam, the Burdekin Falls Dam. More than \$500 million has been committed to improve and raise the dam by two metres, which will future-proof Queensland's largest dam by providing up to 150,000 megalitres of new water allocations, locking in water for agricultural irrigation, and supplementing urban use, while powering industries and jobs in north Queensland.

Not only that Mr Speaker, but the project will also provide more than 350 regional jobs during construction.

This year's budget also continues progress on the Paradise Dam Improvement Project, providing more than \$109 million for planning and enabling works to build a new wall that will meet dam safety standards and support the Bundaberg-Burnett region's economic growth, as part of the Queensland and Australian Government's existing \$1.2 billion commitment.

This work will deliver long-term water security for the Bundaberg region by restoring the dam's capacity and improving the dam's resilience against major and extreme weather events.

Mr Speaker, the Queensland Government is bringing water security to the Southern Downs, thanks to progress on the Toowoomba to Warwick pipeline. This \$300 million project has \$56 million allocated in this budget to support pre-construction works. The pipeline will carry water from Wivenhoe Dam to Toowoomba via existing water infrastructure and then deliver water to Warwick through a new 109-kilometre pipeline, providing a drought contingency supply for the Southern Downs and a permanent water supply to Toowoomba satellite communities of Cambooya, Greenmount, Nobby and Clifton. This project will deliver more than water security—creating 400 jobs for regional Queenslanders during construction.

Southern Downs Regional Council is also receiving \$2.97 million this year, part of the \$8.5 million over five years, for network monitoring to reduce losses and leaks in its water network. Around 9000 meters installed in Warwick, Allora, Yangan, Killarney, Dalveen, Leyburn, Wallangara and Pratten will deliver real time data on water volumes used and pipe flow rates, to help council pinpoint leaks and save water.

The Gladstone Area Water Board will spend over \$311 million for the construction of the Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline. This project has reached the half-way point, with more than 58 kilometres of pipeline laid. This almost \$1 billion project will ensure Central Queensland communities, industry and agriculture will have water security now and into the future. This project is creating 400 direct jobs during peak construction and more than 25 apprenticeships. It brings us more urban water security.

This department is committed to identifying every single drop that can be used for economic opportunity. The Queensland Government is providing \$2.8 million to continue development of the Hughenden Irrigation Project (HIPCO) while a review of the Gulf Water Plan and Regional Water Assessment are conducted in the region.

In addition to our Big Water Build projects, the following investments have also been confirmed:

- \$71 million for the Lake Macdonald dam improvement project
- \$87.5 million over three years for the Cairns Water Security Project; this is in addition to \$107.5 million commitment maximum.
- \$46.9 million over three years for a new water treatment plant for Ayr.
- \$7 million for Cloncurry's water supply through the Community Service Obligation
- And more than \$15 million as part of the \$26 million commitment for a water pipeline for the Lansdown eco-industrial precinct in Townsville

The Queensland Government is committed to making sure all Queenslanders have safe and reliable water and sewerage services no matter where they live.

The \$70 million Building our Regions program continues in its third year to deliver funding to projects in Round 6. This program helps local councils with costs associated with crucial maintenance and upgrades.

This year, \$26 million is being provided to the Rockhampton City Council to help with the cost of more than \$88 million for the Mount Morgan Pipeline, which will provide a permanent water supply from Gracemere to Mount Morgan. The pipeline is already more than one-third complete and designs for the new pump stations and reservoirs are nearing completion as well.

Mr Speaker, these projects are vital to help keep water flowing across regional Queensland, because no matter where they live Queenslanders can count on the Queensland Government to deliver on water projects needed across the state.

And more good news with this budget is that Queensland is still the place to be for manufacturing.

For the manufacturing sector, our programs will invest \$52 million this year for existing and new grant programs to boost the industry and ensure Queensland's good jobs and economic growth will continue into the future.

I want to also make mention of our Manufacturing Hubs and the incredible work they deliver. Our six Manufacturing Hubs are supporting businesses to adopt the machinery, technology and processes they need to advance their businesses.

Queensland's manufacturers will also benefit from the still ongoing \$7.1 million Manufacturing Energy Efficiency Grant Program (MEEG) and the \$10 million ReMade in Queensland Grant Program which is funding manufacturing and recyclers for projects using recycled materials for manufacturing.

The Advanced Robotics for Manufacturing (ARM) Hub has \$2.2 million to continue its vital work in leading edge robotics for manufacturers.

In case there was any doubt, this Budget and these priorities make it clear once again that there is no better place to be a manufacturer than Queensland.

Mr Speaker, I'm proud to stand behind this Budget and what it promises for regional Queensland—that's good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle today, and into the future.