




Speech By
Hon. Ann Leahy

MEMBER FOR WARREGO

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Water Infrastructure

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (10.10 am): The Crisafulli LNP government's priority is to provide water security and supply whilst ensuring water affordability for Queenslanders. Our budget will deliver the foundations for a fresh start for water in Queensland. For nearly a decade previous Labor governments sat on their hands and let water become a scarce, expensive resource. Agriculture, industry and consumers suffered at the hands of Labor governments that let water bills rise. Labor failed to focus on water infrastructure delivery and let water bills rise to become some of the most expensive in the country. For nearly a decade not one dam was built in Queensland, but I do recall one that was torn down. Water infrastructure was stifled by bureaucracy and red tape. Queensland experienced eye-watering blowouts of over \$6 billion in water projects. This included a \$3.2 billion blowout at Paradise Dam with next to nothing to show for it. In stark contrast, the Crisafulli LNP government is focused on water security for generations to come.

Last Thursday I visited Bundaberg with the Deputy Premier and the honourable members for Callide and Burnett. We were very excited to announce that the Crisafulli LNP government is getting on with the job of rebuilding Paradise Dam. We have given a green light to start early works for the Paradise Dam Improvement Project, a decisive step towards securing Bundaberg and North Burnett's water security and regional prosperity. Early works include construction of a temporary accommodation village, two concrete batching plants, the establishment of support facilities and site preparation. Other activities include road upgrades and geotechnical and quarry investigations.

Water is at the heart of a thriving community. This announcement is a significant step in the right direction to deliver a new dam wall which will support jobs, safeguard Bundaberg's \$2 billion agriculture industry and benefit the community for generations to come. We will work with growers, farmers and irrigators and macadamia and fruit and vegetable growers like Craig van Rooyen to ensure water security for the region and local industries. The Paradise Dam project reflects the Crisafulli LNP government's commitment to investing in critical infrastructure that lasts for generations to come. The Crisafulli government takes water security in our regions seriously. We are getting on with the job of rebuilding Paradise Dam and safeguarding water supply for Queensland now and into the future.