



Speech By
Bryson Head

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Record of Proceedings, 27 August 2025

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee, Report

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (7.50 pm): Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Member, thanks for the provocation earlier. I am happy to talk further in this House about the estimates process, especially about the fantastic Minister for Local Government and Water and the great work that she and the Crisafulli LNP government are doing. The minister spoke through the estimates process in great detail about the significant investment we are putting towards water security in the electorate of Callide, with \$18.6 million out of a total of \$29.7 million to progress the Barlil and Cooranga weir developments to get them through to final design so we can get on with the job of delivering on that commitment. It is a fantastic thing for the Mundubbera community for a weir to be built on the Boyne River. It is something that the growers there have been calling for. It makes good on an undertaking that was made many years ago.

Here is some history for the House: I think when the latest unit at the Tarong Power Station was built, meaning more water to be taken from Boondooma Dam, growers lost some water security downstream. It has taken three decades to see a government in Queensland that can actually deliver that project and, of course, it has to be an LNP government because unfortunately we know that Labor do not build water infrastructure unless they are dragged kicking and screaming, as they were with Rookwood Weir. We know their record. When they go it alone and try to build some water infrastructure we see things like what happened with Paradise Dam.

My constituency and the constituency of the member for Burnett know very well about the failures of Paradise Dam and the heartache it has caused but the minister also outlined the work that has been happening. There is now a coordinated project to reinstate Paradise Dam to its proper level. That is a great thing for the Wide Bay.

Mr Bennett: Works have started.

Mr HEAD: I take that interjection. Works have started to progress that rebuild of Paradise Dam. This is something that should have happened many years ago but Labor, once again, do not like backing in water security in Queensland. They do not like backing in the regions. It takes an LNP government to get on with the job and deliver important water security. There have been 10 years of delays and 10 years of failures but only 10 months of significant delivery under a Crisafulli LNP government. That is a fantastic contrast.

My constituency often talks about how it is great to see government. We have ministers who spend a lot of time in regional Queensland—I have the Minister for Primary Industries in Mundubbera—talking with growers about Cooranga weir and the benefits it will bring. He will be there soon in the Mundubbera community. I am looking forward to hosting you, Minister.

I will move on to other matters in the North Burnett. The local government minister is also working hard with local governments to fix the likes of the challenges that the North Burnett community are facing with a 25 per cent rate rise. The council has outlined in detail the significant challenges they have faced over the last decade that has led to that rate rise. As I have said to the community, there are a lot of different levers between local, state and federal governments that need to be pulled to help that situation but I know this minister is working hard with local governments to do the right thing to make sure it is not the state that is causing further pain—not only for local councils but, in turn, their ratepayers.

Finally, it is fantastic to also see a government getting on with the job and delivering things that were meant to be delivered under the previous government but never were. The community of Biggenden knows this all too well. They were meant to have a new fire shed built many years ago. I think it was either in 2017 or 2019 that an agreement was signed. The local show society at Biggenden gifted land to the state in a lease arrangement for a new fire station to be built at Biggenden and it was never built. We had a great meeting with the minister and the Fire Department recently to talk about that important upgrade. I know we will have shovels moving soon and a tender process is imminent. I am looking forward to seeing that fire shed built at Biggenden and of course at Bell, as well. I know great work is happening there—another fire shed that was meant to be built many years ago and wasn't. That is why it is fantastic to be part of the Crisafulli government and an LNP team that is getting on with delivering for Queensland. We have only been in government for 10 months and we have already delivered a lot more for the people of Callide than we saw in a decade of decline under the previous Labor government.

Mr Baillie interjected.

Mr HEAD: I take that interjection. We are kicking goals.