



Speech by  
**Glen Elmes**

**MEMBER FOR NOOSA**

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## **WATER SUPPLY**

**Mr ELMES** (Noosa—Lib) (12.39 pm): I would like to spend the few minutes available to me to alert the House to yet more information regarding the self-imposed crisis of water supply to the south-east corner. Last week, the Mayor of Maroochy Shire Council, Joe Natoli, announced that he had offered the Queensland government 10 billion litres of class A recycled water that could be used in the south-east corner of the state every year, but as usual there was no response until the offer was made public and then only that the Premier wanted more information. But there is a lot more to this story.

Let us add to those 10 billion litres the three billion litres that the Noosa Council produces each year plus another nine billion litres from Caloundra and a further nine billion litres from Pine Rivers. All of this high-class recycled water goes into the creeks and rivers and the ocean. It is there and available but, as a result of continuing incompetence with infrastructure spending, it is poured down the collective drain.

Labor throws around figures like \$1.7 billion to try to impress voters and at the same time destroy communities to build the disaster at Traveston Crossing, but what is it doing about moving the water around? The Deputy Premier stood up here this morning and talked about 240 kilometres of pipes worth \$200 million. What she did not say in the media release that she put out on Friday last week was that the total contribution to moving recycled water, or water of any kind, around this state up until last Friday was just 60 kilometres of pipes.

We have a situation where all of this high-class recycled water is available to industry and the farming community right now. Meanwhile, the western pipeline and the other pipeline projects are little more than figments of the Premier and Deputy Premier's imagination. There is absolutely no action on a pipeline that could pump real water—up to 31 billion litres each year—to Brisbane and the south-east corner.

I note a quote from a spokeswoman for the Premier who, when asked about the 10 billion litres on offer from the Maroochy Shire Council, said, 'The transportation of 10 billion litres of water could provide logistical problems.' If the government cannot get its head around the movement of 10 billion litres of water from the Maroochy shire, how is it going to move 70 billion litres from the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam to Brisbane? But that is still not the whole story on water; it is not even close.

What about the 65 million litres of class A treated water that has been dumped into the Brisbane River every day since March—eight months ago—because of the Beattie government's incompetence in providing infrastructure? The government has known that the water would be available for the last two years. It is so clean that it is probably the only part of the Brisbane River where one can see the bottom. All of this recycled water from the one responsible arm of government in Queensland—our councils—could feed the power stations and industry and could provide for the needs of local farmers, and thereby the water in our dams could be kept for drinking.

There is more than one crisis in Queensland. There is a water crisis all right but there is also a crisis in the provision of government services, and it is not something that started yesterday; it started the day this government was first elected. The time is well and truly here when those opposite need to put some

pipes in the ground, not from the Traveston Crossing site from the existing facilities to carry recycled water south—from Noosa in the north to Brisbane and from Brisbane to a completed western pipeline.

The stupidity that surrounds the performance of this government on water can be solved today if the government had the will to deliver the services to those who elected it. If this sad Labor government wanted to provide more good, clean drinking water it would abandon its plans for the Traveston Crossing Dam and raise the height of the existing Borumba Dam. And do you know what? Work could start on that today as well.