

Marilyn Buswell

From: Graham Fraine
Sent: Monday, 20 March 2023 1:42 PM
To: Marilyn Buswell
Subject: Re: FOR ENDORSEMENT & APPROVAL TO APPLY E SIG : JARROD BLEIJIE MP - CTS 04359/23

Endorsed to proceed - thanks

Graham Fraine
Director-General
Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water
M: (6) Personal infor
E: graham.fraine@rdmw.qld.gov.au
W: www.rdmw.qld.gov.au

From: Marilyn Buswell <Marilyn.Buswell@rdmw.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 8:59:37 AM
To: Graham Fraine <Graham.Fraine@rdmw.qld.gov.au>
Subject: FOR ENDORSEMENT & APPROVAL TO APPLY E SIG : JARROD BLEIJIE MP - CTS 04359/23

Hi GF

For your endorsement and approval to apply E-sig noting DC's advice in reference to Mr Bleijie's original letter of 12 December – DC *Please note I cannot find any record of the Member's letter of 12 December in the email inboxes. I don't recall a hard copy mail letter either.*

I checked with Jesse on how he would like that addressed and he asked that we include a statement to make it clear that there is no record of receipt which I have now included.

Many thanks



Queensland
Government

Marilyn Buswell
Senior Executive Officer
Office of the Director-General
Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water

P: 3096 6821 | E: marilyn.buswell@rdmw.qld.gov.au

Marilyn Buswell

From: Marilyn Buswell
Sent: Monday, 20 March 2023 9:00 AM
To: Graham Fraine
Subject: FOR ENDORSEMENT & APPROVAL TO APPLY E SIG : JARROD BLEIJIE MP - CTS 04359/23
Attachments: Min Butcher.pdf; 04359-23_2125876_Draft_Min_Reply.pdf

Hi GF

For your endorsement and approval to apply E-sig noting DC's advice in reference to Mr Bleijie's original letter of 12 December – DC *Please note I cannot find any record of the Member's letter of 12 December in the email inboxes. I don't recall a hard copy mail letter either.*

I checked with Jesse on how he would like that addressed and he asked that we include a statement to make it clear that there is no record of receipt which I have now included.

Many thanks



Marilyn Buswell
Senior Executive Officer
Office of the Director-General
Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water

P: 3096 6821 | E: marilyn.buswell@rdmw.qld.gov.au



Jarrod BLEIJIE MP

Member for Kawana

Deputy Leader of the Opposition

Shadow Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning

Shadow Minister for Olympic and Paralympic Infrastructure and Jobs

Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations

12 December 2022

The Honourable Glenn Butcher

Minister for Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water

1 William Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Minister Butcher

I refer to media reports that SEQ Water has purchased a property at Meridan Plains for a proposed desalination plant.

Despite this issue and speculation being in the media for some time, I understand there has been no consultation with my local community with respect to this issue. I can also confirm my office has not received any notification or information about this issue.

As you would appreciate, Meridan Plains is not directly adjacent to the beach so any desalination plant would require kilometres of infrastructure and pipes from the coast to the proposed site.

I have had many concerns raised with me with respect to this issue including but not limited to the potential environmental issues.

I seek your advice with respect to the proposal for a desalination plant in my electorate and would appreciate answers to the following questions:

1. The date SEQ Water purchased the property at Meridan Plains?
2. The Meridan Plains property lot and plan number?
3. Which beach is proposed to be the intake beach?
4. Has a business case been undertaken with respect to a proposal?
5. Has an Environmental Impact Assessment been undertaken? and
6. What alternatives to a desalination plant has the government considered.

As you would appreciate, without clarification on the abovementioned issues, angst will continue to grow in my community. I share these concerns with my community.

I would appreciate your responses at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely

sch4p4(6) Personal information

JARROD BLEIJIE MP

Member for Kawana

Deputy Leader of the Opposition

Shadow Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning

Shadow Minister for Olympic and Paralympic Infrastructure and Jobs

Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations



Hon Glenn Butcher MP
Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing
Minister for Water

Our ref: CTS 04359/23

1 William Street
Brisbane QLD 4000
GPO Box 2247 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +617 3035 6170
Email regionaldevelopment@ministerial.qld.gov.au
ABN 51 242 471 577

Mr Jarrod Bleijie MP
Member for Kawana
PO Box 1200
BUDDINA QLD 4575

Email: kawana@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Bleijie

Thank you for your letter dated 12 December 2022 and subsequent email of 13 March 2023 regarding Seqwater's purchase of land at Meridan Plains for a proposed desalination plant. Regrettably a search of my office records has resulted in no record of receipt of your original letter.

Seqwater is required under the *Water Security Act 2000* to develop and periodically update a 30-year Water Security Program (WSP) for South East Queensland which sets out the future infrastructure requirements to maintain water security for the region's growing population. The current WSP 2016-46 was published in 2017 and is available on Seqwater's website at www.seqwater.com.au/waterforlife. Seqwater is in the process of developing an updated version of the WSP which will determine future infrastructure requirements based on the latest climate and population modelling.

I can advise that Seqwater holds a parcel of land near Meridan Plains on the Sunshine Coast, which was acquired from Unitywater in 2019. Like other utilities and authorities, land purchases are at times undertaken to support strategic planning, however no decisions have been made on any potential development of the Meridan Plains site and Seqwater's longer-term infrastructure investment strategy is still being developed through the WSP process.

Seqwater follows a stringent approach to all major projects, which includes ensuring any social or environmental impacts of a project are considered and managed appropriately, and that all relevant environmental approvals are obtained.

Seqwater also follows the Queensland Government's Business Case Development Framework when planning all new major infrastructure, which ensures a detailed business case is prepared and appropriate community consultation is undertaken and considered before any investment decision is considered by government.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr Ben Driscoll, Chief of Staff on (07) 3035 6170 or email ben.driscoll@ministerial.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Marilyn Buswell

From: Linda Dobe
Sent: Tuesday, 2 May 2023 5:37 PM
To: ben.driscoll@ministerial.qld.gov.au; Jarrod Cowley-Grimmond
Subject: Fwd: External Briefing Note South ~ Acting Director General Linda Dobe from CEO, Seqwater Neil Brennan
Attachments: External Briefing Note South ~ Acting Director General Linda Dobe from CEO, Seqwater Neil Brennan.pdf

FYI

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Lori Beeton (sch4p4(6) Personal information)
Sent: Tuesday, May 2, 2023 5:00:40 PM
To: Linda Dobe <Linda.Dobe@rdmw.qld.gov.au>
Subject: External Briefing Note South ~ Acting Director General Linda Dobe from CEO, Seqwater Neil Brennan

Caution: this message came from outside of the organisation.
Be careful before clicking any link or attachment.

Good afternoon Linda

Please find attached briefing note from Neil.

Regards
Lori

Lori Beeton Executive Assistant to Chief Executive Officer



a 117 Brisbane Street | PO Box 328 | Ipswich QLD 4305

m (6) Personal in p +61730355533 | w www.seqwater.com.au

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We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land, catchments and waterways on which we work. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

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our vision WATER FOR LIFE | our promise SAFE FOR LIFE | our values INTEGRITY RESPECT CARE COURAGE

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RTI Act 2009



Jarrod BLEIJIE MP

Member for **Kawana**

Deputy Leader of the Opposition

Shadow Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning

Shadow Minister for Olympic and Paralympic Infrastructure and Jobs

Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations

12 December 2022

The Honourable Glenn Butcher
Minister for Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water
1 William Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Minister Butcher

I refer to media reports that SEQ Water has purchased a property at Meridan Plains for a proposed desalination plant.

Despite this issue and speculation being in the media for some time, I understand there has been no consultation with my local community with respect to this issue. I can also confirm my office has not received any notification or information about this issue.

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I would appreciate your responses at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely

sch4p4(6) Personal information

JARROD BLEIJIE MP

Member for Kawana

Deputy Leader of the Opposition

Shadow Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning

Shadow Minister for Olympic and Paralympic Infrastructure and Jobs

Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations

**Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy
EXECUTIVE CORRESPONDENCE ACTION SHEET**

MO REF 1496	☐ Consult Other:
DATE RECEIVED MO 22/05/18	
RESPONSE/ACTION REQUIRED	
☒ For reply under Minister's signature	
☐ For reply under Chief of Staff's signature	☐ For referral by DLO network ☐ Minister/department
☐ For acknowledgement under: ☐ Minister's Signature ☐ Chief of Staff's signature	☐ For Caucus Liaison Response ☐ For GOC to respond directly
☐ For departmental response under: ☐ Deputy Director-General's signature ☐ Director-General's signature	
CONTACT PROVIDED IN LETTER	
☐ Departmental Rep (Default)	☒ Chief of Staff
☐ Policy Advisor	
RESPONSE TIMING	COPY (Internal action within Minister's Office)
☒ Urgent (5 business days)	☐ Minister
☒ Routine (15 business days)	☐ SPA
☐ Specified Date	☐ APA
☐ Complaint (20 business days)	☐ Executive Assistant/ Office Manager
☐ Briefing note - Noting/Decision	☐ Director-General
☐ Briefing note - Meeting	
☐ Dot Point brief (DLO template)	
☐ Department to contact and resolve ☐ Dot points to actioning Advisor	
☐ No Response Required / FYI Only	
MINISTER'S OFFICE COMMENTS:	
Advisor / Chief of Staff:	Date: 22/5/18
DEPARTMENTAL ALLOCATION (Departmental Liaison Officer to complete)	
☐ Director-General	DLO COMMENTS <div style="border: 2px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; text-align: center; width: 150px; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>Received</p> <p>24 MAY 2018</p> <p>DNRME</p> </div>
☐ POL	
☐ MER	
☐ RSH	
☒ WMS, 22-342	

CTS
 15901/18

From: Maroochydore Electorate Office [<mailto:Maroochydore@parliament.qld.gov.au>]
Sent: Thursday, 10 May 2018 9:58 AM
To: Deputy Premier <deputy.premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Desalination plant - Marcoola

Dear Deputy Premier

I write on behalf of members of the North Coast community who have raised concerns about plans to consider a possible desalination plant.

I was previously advised that this option had been taken out of the Water Security Program and I strongly oppose any plans for a future desalination plant at Marcoola.

I note that previous water plans identified Marcoola and Bribie Island as possible locations for a future desalination plan, if required, however I was reassured by the response from the then Minister for Water Supply to a Question on Notice (no 350) asked in Parliament on 21 March 2017 that "there is no proposed site for a desalination plant on the Sunshine Coast."

Thus I respectfully seek your assurance that there are no plans for a desalination plant at Marcoola as I believe this would be in conflict with the expansion of the Sunshine Coast Airport and this is not an area where there are plans for large developments or close high levels of future population growth nearby.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

Fiona Simpson

Fiona Simpson MP

Tel: 5406 7100



Fiona SIMPSON MP
Member for **Maroochydore**
Shadow Minister for Employment and Small Business and
Shadow Minister for Training and Skills Development
🏠 Suite 1, Cnr First & Memorial Avenues, Maroochydore Qld 4558
☎ 07 5406 7100 @ maroochydore@parliament.qld.gov.au
🌐 fionasimpson.com.au f [FionaSimpsonMP](https://www.facebook.com/FionaSimpsonMP/) t [@FionaSimpsonMP](https://twitter.com/FionaSimpsonMP)



Please like my Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/FionaSimpsonMP/>

Click [here](#) to have your say in Fiona's Community Survey or sign up for my e-newsletter [here](#)

Teryn Fonda

From: DLO DNRME <DLO.DNRME@dnrme.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 May 2018 10:10 AM
To: Teryn Fonda
Subject: FW: INCOMING CORRO - FW: Desalination plant - Marcoola

Hi Teryn,

For processing please.

Thank you,



Queensland
Government

Rhylie Austin
Departmental Liaison Officer
Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy

P: 3181 5109 **M:** b4(6) Personal info

E: DLO.DNRME@dnrme.qld.gov.au

A: 36, 1 William Street, Brisbane, QLD 4000 | PO BOX 15216, CITY EAST, QLD 4002



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by White Ribbon



From: DLO [mailto:DLO@treasury.qld.gov.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 22 May 2018 10:08 AM
To: DLO DNRME
Cc: Executive Correspondence; Karen Windress
Subject: FW: INCOMING CORRO - FW: Desalination plant - Marcoola

Good morning,

Can you please advise whether DNRME will accept referral of the correspondence below?

Kind regards,

Joe

Joseph Clowes
Departmental Liaison Officer
Queensland Treasury
Level 39, 1 William Street, Brisbane
Phone: (07) 3035 3505 b4p4(6) Personal inform
Email: Joseph.Clowes@treasury.qld.gov.au
Web: www.treasury.qld.gov.au



The Hon Dr Anthony Lynham MP
Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy

Ref MO/18/1496
CTS 15901/18

1 William Street Brisbane
PO Box 15216 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7360
Email nrm@ministerial.qld.gov.au

- 5 JUN 2018

Ms Fiona Simpson MP
Member for Maroochydore
Suite 1
Corner First and Memorial Avenues
MAROOCHYDORE QLD 4558

Dear Ms Simpson

Thank you for your letter of 10 May 2018, on behalf of members of the North Coast community, regarding community concerns about consideration of a desalination plant at Marcoola.

Seqwater, the statutory authority responsible for South East Queensland's long-term water security, has stated in its Water for life: South East Queensland's Water Security Program 2016–2046 (SEQ Water Security Program) that a new permanent water source will not be required on the Sunshine Coast until 2040, unless the region experiences an extremely severe drought. This is because of the ongoing water security provided by the South East Queensland Water Grid constructed during the Millennium Drought, which includes a network of pipelines to move water where it is most needed, the Gold Coast Desalination Plant and the Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme.

While a potential site for a desalination plant at Marcoola was identified during the Millennium Drought, this has since been transferred from State Government ownership to the Sunshine Coast Regional Council to support the expansion of the Sunshine Coast Airport. I can confirm that Marcoola is therefore no longer being considered as a potential site for a desalination plant by Seqwater.

As indicated in your letter, the Sunshine Coast is expected to experience significant population growth in the next couple of decades. Seqwater considers it is critical to plan now for a sustainable and resilient water supply and it is therefore investigating all potential options to boost the region's water supply. Seqwater is considering options including increasing the capacity of its water treatment plants, raising Borumba Dam near Gympie, constructing a new off-stream storage or weir on the Mary River, recycled water and desalination. Seqwater is also examining demand management strategies aimed at increasing the efficiency of residential and industrial water consumption.

Seqwater is planning to engage with the community, including the Sunshine Coast, and seek feedback during the development of the next version of the SEQ Water Security Program, which is due to be finalised by March 2022. I encourage your constituents to engage in this process and also inspect the latest version of the Water Security Program (published in March 2017) on Seqwater's website at www.seqwater.com.au.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr Paul Woodland, Chief of Staff, who will be pleased to assist you and can be contacted on 3719 7360.

sch4p4(6) Personal information
sch4p4(6) Personal information

Dr Anthony Lynham MP
Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy

Our ref: CTS 04359/23

23 March 2023

Mr Jarrod Bleijie MP
Member for Kawana
PO Box 1200
BUDDINA QLD 4575

Email: kawana@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Bleijie

Thank you for your email of 13 March 2023 regarding Seqwater land at Meridan Plains. Regrettably, my office has no record of receiving your original letter on 12 December 2023.

I can advise that Seqwater holds a parcel of land near Meridan Plains, which was acquired from Unitywater in 2019. Like other utilities and government businesses, Queensland's bulk water providers acquire or sell land from time to time for various operational or strategic reasons. However, no decisions have been made on any potential development at the Meridan Plains site.

Seqwater follows a stringent approach when developing plans for its assets, which includes ensuring any social or environmental impacts are considered and managed appropriately, and that all relevant environmental approvals are obtained prior to any decision being made.

Seqwater also follows the Queensland Government's Business Case Development Framework when planning all new major infrastructure, which ensures a detailed business case is prepared and thorough community consultation is undertaken and considered before any investment decision is considered by government.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr Ben Driscoll, Chief of Staff on (07) 3035 6170 or email ben.driscoll@ministerial.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

sch4p4(6) Personal informat

GLENN BUTCHER MP
Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing
Minister for Water

**Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy
EXECUTIVE CORRESPONDENCE ACTION SHEET**

MO REF: MO/18/ 3098	☐ Consult Other:
DATE RECEIVED MO: 29/10/18	
RESPONSE/ACTION REQUIRED	
☒ For reply under Minister's signature	
☐ For reply under Chief of Staff's signature	☐ For referral by DLO network ☐ Minister/department
☐ For acknowledgement under: ☐ Minister's Signature ☐ Chief of Staff's signature	☐ For Caucus Liaison Response
☐ For GOC to respond directly	
☐ For departmental response under: ☐ Deputy Director-General's signature ☐ Director-General's signature	
CONTACT PROVIDED IN LETTER	
☐ Departmental Rep (Default)	☒ Chief of Staff
☐ Policy Advisor	
RESPONSE TIMING	COPY (Internal action within Minister's Office)
☒ Urgent (5 business days)	☐ Minister
☐ Routine (15 business days)	☐ Chief of Staff
☐ Specified Date	☐ SPA
☐ Complaint (20 business days)	☐ PA
☐ Briefing note - Noting/Decision	☐ APA
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☒ Dot Point brief (DLO template)	☐ Executive Assistant/ Office Manager
☐ Department to contact and resolve ☐ Dot points to actioning Advisor	☐ Other
☐ No Response Required / FYI Only	☐ Director-General
MINISTER'S OFFICE COMMENTS: <div style="position: absolute; top: 10px; right: 10px; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> Received 31 OCT 2018 DNRME </div>	
Advisor / Chief of Staff:	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">sch4p4(6) Personal information</div>
Date: 29/10/18	
DEPARTMENTAL ALLOCATION (Departmental Liaison Officer to complete)	
☐ Director-General ☐ POL ☐ MER ☐ RSH ☒ WMS	DLO COMMENTS <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: red; text-align: center;">URGENT</div>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> 22-342 File A </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> Previous correo: CTS 159011 18. </div>

CTS
32070/18
eDOCS

Teryn Fonda

From: Maroochydore Electorate Office <Maroochydore@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 26 October 2018 3:30 PM
To: State Development & Natural Resources and Mines
Subject: Desalination Plant
Attachments: 201810261531.pdf

Good Afternoon,

Please find attached correspondence for the Minister's attention.

Kind regards,

Robyn

Robyn Dawes | Assistant Electorate Officer
Office of Fiona Simpson MP
Member for Maroochydore
Shadow Minister for Employment and Small Business
Shadow Minister for Training and Skills Development
Tel: 5406 7100



Click [here](#) to have your say in Fiona's Community Survey or sign up for my e-newsletter [here](#)

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Fiona SIMPSON MP

Member for Maroochydore



Our Ref: FS:jjw/corresp/water/desal/18

23 October 2018

Hon Dr Anthony Lynham
Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy
PO Box 15216
CITY EAST QLD 4002

Email: sdnrm@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Minister

I refer to a recent article in the Sunshine Coast Daily which refers to the possibility of another desalination plant to be built on the Sunshine Coast or Brisbane.

I note your previous advice of 5 June 2018, attached, where you confirm that Marcoola is not being considered as a potential site for a desalination plant by Seqwater due to the site being required for the expansion of the Sunshine Coast Airport.

I respectfully seek your advice as to whether any other sites are being considered on the Sunshine Coast, and what other options to boost the region's water supply are being considered.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

sch4p4(6) Personal information

Fiona Simpson MP
Member for Maroochydore
Shadow Minister for Employment and Small Business
Shadow Minister for Training and Skills Development

Date : 15/08/2022 9:41:08 AM

From : "Robert Hearn"

To : "Mark Breen" , "Trevor Dann"

Subject : FW: Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water Daily Briefing 15 Aug 2022

Attachment : regional_development_manufacturing_and_water_daily_briefing_2022-08-15.pdf;image002.png;image003.png;image004.png;

FYI - Did you see the Sunway Mail article about WCRWS/political gridlock?

WATER WAR

A MULTIBILLION-dollar desalination plant could be built on the Sunshine Coast amid division in the Palaszczuk cabinet over how to secure the region's water supply and avoid a contentious debate about recycled water. Water shortages are set to occur earlier than expected due to South East Queensland's explosive population growth, but Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk and Water Minister Glenn Butcher disagree on droughtproofing strategies. **HAYDEN JOHNSON'S EXCLUSIVE REPORT PG 9**

BILLION-DOLLAR WATER TORTURE

CRISIS FEARS PLUNGE TOP POLLIES INTO CONFLICT

HAYDEN JOHNSON

A MULTIBILLION-dollar desalination plant could be built on the Sunshine Coast amid cracks in the Palaszczuk government over how to secure the region's water supply and avoid a controversial debate about recycled water.

The political gridlock at the highest level of the Palaszczuk government comes as Seqwater finalises a critical study which will warn of earlier-than-expected water shortages due to South East Queensland's explosive population growth.

Seqwater's report will urge the government to invest in new water infrastructure or face shortages within the grid, which was on the cusp of tough restrictions before flooding rain arrived in November.

However, a disagreement between Premier Annastacia

Palaszczuk and Water Minister Glenn Butcher over how to droughtproof the region is set to come to a head – and could result in billions of dollars being spent on a new desalination plant in Caloundra to avoid another public debate and the controversy of drinking recycled water.

Ms Palaszczuk is open to building the state's second desalination plant on the Sunshine Coast, with sources familiar with government discussions declaring it "certainly an option" despite the cost likely to exceed \$1bn.

However, Mr Butcher is understood to be sceptical about the significant investment and is instead a supporter of increasing the supply of recycled water. His support is at odds with Ms Palaszczuk, who has publicly and privately

hosed down the politically sensitive issue.

A source familiar with Ms Palaszczuk's position said that she was "aware of the public perception" about recycled water, having experienced the debate as a Beattie government MP during the millennium drought of the late 2000s.

Questions to Ms Palaszczuk's office about her position were answered by a spokesman, who said her government was "not considering expanding the use of recycled water or building more recycled water infrastructure".

He did not respond to questions about whether the Premier was supportive of a new desalination facility.

Mr Butcher did not comment on the desalination proposal or his support for recycled water.

He said the government had no plans to change the

level of recycled water in the network while the South East Queensland water grid remains almost 90 per cent full.

"The government is not considering increasing the use of recycled water, or building more recycled water facilities," he said.

"The SEQ Water Security Program is expected to be released this year."

A site at Meridian Plains near Caloundra already owned by Seqwater is tipped to be the site of a new desalination plant.

It would be Queensland's second after Tugun, which cost \$1.2bn, was opened in 2009 in response to the millennium drought.

That plant, while controversial at the time, permanently supplies water to the South East Queensland grid.

The second desalination plant could be built despite South East Queensland's \$25bn Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme largely sitting idle.

The scheme – which also opened in 2008 in response to the millennium drought – is supplying industry and large businesses with water that

would otherwise be drawn from dams.

However, it can supply purified recycled water to Lake Wivenhoe once dam storage drops below 40 per cent capacity – but its use remains controversial.

Seqwater last year delayed the decision to begin restarting the recycled water scheme despite dam levels reaching the 40 per cent trigger, before summer's above-average rain and flooding meant the decision was no longer required.

The Palaszczuk govern-

ment has been reluctant to discuss a return to recycled water, despite it being widely used in cities including Los Angeles, Singapore and Perth.

Seqwater's Water Security Program is expected to note stronger-than-expected population growth is likely to increase the urgency for new water infrastructure.

Seqwater CEO Neil Brennan declined to say whether the organisation supported a desalination plant, or whether any cost modelling had been undertaken.

He also would not reveal what procedure and cost was required to increase the output of recycled water to service residential customers, but said Seqwater's security review was under way.

"Our current Water Security Program is published online and sets out our direction for supplying SEQ's drinking water over the next 30 years," he said.

"We periodically review our plan and an updated version will be completed and published later this year."



Rob Hearn

A/Director

Strategic Coordination and Economics | Water Infrastructure and Strategic Coordination

Department of Regional Development Manufacturing and Water

P 07 3199 4895 M 6) Personal

Robert.hearn@rdmw.qld.gov.au

From: Isentia Daily Briefings <DailyBriefings@isentia.com>

Sent: Monday, 15 August 2022 7:25 AM

To: DRDMW Media Clips

Subject: Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water Daily Briefing 15 Aug 2022

Isentia Logo



Daily media clips

Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water

Monday, 15th August 2022

[Ministerial Mentions](#) | [Regional Development and Manufacturing](#) | [Water and Catchments](#) | [National - Regional Development and Manufacturing](#) | [National - Water and Catchments](#)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- [Sunday Mail Brisbane](#) reports that there is debate within the Queensland state government around potential plans to build a multibillion dollar desalination plant on the Sunshine Coast, as a critical study is finalised by Seqwater, which will reveal water shortages are likely earlier than expected due to population growth in Southeast Queensland. Water Minister Glenn

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Prepared by Isma

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ABC Radio Sydney, Weekend Evenings, 13/08/2022, Christine Anu

Interview with David Littleproud, Nationals Leader. He blasts Agriculture Minister Murray Watt for "misunderstanding" the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. Littleproud also accuses Water Minister Tanya Plibersek of "rewriting" the plan by including 450 gigalitres that will be taken off the consumptive pool. He urges Wyatt and Plibersek to instead focus on measures that will ease the problems that basin communities have already suffered from.

Segment continues on: Radio National (Sydney), Radio National (Perth), Radio National (Melbourne), Radio National (Hobart), Radio National (Canberra), Radio National (Brisbane), Radio National (Adelaide)

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Prepared by Isentia

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Date : 14/06/2019 11:12:51 AM

From : "HEARN Robert"

To : "Jarrod Cowley-Grimmond" , "Mark Breen" , "Grace Gowen" , "Daniel Goodchild"

Subject : FW: Seqwater HIB re land purchase on the Sunshine Coast

Attachment : 13 06 2019 - Seqwater HIB- Sunshine Coast land purchase

FINAL.pdf;image6e8112.PNG;image825cfb.PNG;image001.png;image002.png;image003.png;image004.png;image005.png;image007.jpg;

FYI – Seqwater is intending to make an offer to Unity Water to purchase land at Meridan Plains as a possible site for new bulk water supply infrastructure on the Sunshine Coast:

Schedule 3, section 2(1)(b) - Consideration of Cabinet

The land comprises two properties with a combined area of 53.6 hectares, is near a bulk water main pipeline, 4.5km from the coast, and there is a planned power transmission corridor nearby. The land would be suitable for desalination or recycled water options, however the purchase does not lock Seqwater into either option, and Seqwater will continue its planning work for future augmentation options.

Seqwater is offering \$2.05 million which is marginally over its estimated market value of \$1.975m

Rob Hearn

Manager

Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy

P 07 3199 4895 E: Robert.hearn@dnrme.qld.gov.au

From: WMS Entities Governance <WMS.EntitiesGovernance@dnrme.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 14 June 2019 7:59 AM

To: HEARN Robert; BREEN Mark; CHAPMAN Mary

Subject: FW: Seqwater HIB re land purchase on the Sunshine Coast

FYI

From: Mike Foster [sch4p4(6) Personal information]

Sent: Thursday, 13 June 2019 5:03 PM

To: Zanatta Simon; 'Finn McCarthy'; David Potter @ Ministerial

Cc: WMS Entities Governance; DLO DNRME; DOBE Linda; ZERBA Bernadette; Trevor Dann; WISKAR David

Subject: Seqwater HIB re land purchase on the Sunshine Coast

Simon/co

Please find follow up to earlier advice re Seqwater HIB on potential land purchase for future water supply on the Sunshine Coast.

Happy to discuss.

Will advise the outcome of the expression of interest process next week.

Cheers
Mike

Mike Foster Manager External Relations



a 117 Brisbane Street | PO Box 328 | Ipswich QLD 4305

m6) Personal p (07) 3035 5545 | w www.seqwater.com.au



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RTI Act 2009

To	The Hon. Dr Anthony Lynham MP Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy	From	Neil Brennan Chief Executive Officer, Seqwater
Date	13 June 2019		
Subject	Land Purchase – Possible long-term future Bulk Supply Augmentation Site		

☒ URGENT ☒ CONFIDENTIAL ☐ ROUTINE ☐ FOR APPROVAL ☒ FOR INFORMATION

☐ Noted ☐ Further info required	Minister _____ Date ____/____/____ Comments:
DNRME Reference No.	CTS

RECOMMENDATION

- The Minister notes Seqwater will make an offer to Unitywater to purchase land for a possible future bulk supply augmentation on the Sunshine Coast, in particular:
 - a. Current planning indicates major water supply augmentation in south east Queensland is not required until around 2040. This augmentation will be needed on the Sunshine Coast.
 - b. Sites for major water supply augmentation are scarce and becoming scarcer with population growth.
 - c. It is common practice for utilities to secure strategic land to keep options open to service growth.
 - d. Unitywater recently advised Seqwater of a process for the sale of Unitywater land at a site that could be suitable for a future desalination or recycled water plant.
 - e. Seqwater will be submitting an offer today to purchase such land, at Meridian Plains, Sunshine Coast, for \$2.05M.
 - f. Seqwater is in the early stages of its long-term supply planning, which will take at least two or three more years to identify preferred options. This land may or may not be required following this assessment, and the purchase of the land does not suggest any decisions have been made.
 - g. The cost of the purchase will have an immaterial impact on bulk water prices.

BACKGROUND

- In 2017, Seqwater's Water Security Program (the Program) identified the need to augment the bulk supply system in the future, by around 2040.
- The Program identified a number of possible supply options, including desalination and recycled water. No preferred option was identified.
- This next major augmentation will be required on the Sunshine Coast, given population growth and the limited water sources in the area.
- Schedule 3, section 2(1)(b) - Consideration of Cabinet
- Land for future sites is scarce. Seqwater previously had earmarked land at Marcoola near the Maroochydore Airport, however in 2015 this land was instead made available for airport expansion.
- As part of the land transfer the Sunshine Coast Council committed to assisting Seqwater secure a future water supply source.

- The Queensland Water Commission undertook a siting review in 2006 and shortlisted some 13 sites. Of these shortlisted sites only four remain unhindered by development, demonstrating that suitable sites are becoming scarce.

Schedule 3, section 2(1)(b) - Consideration of Cabinet

- The siting study is only a preliminary assessment and more detailed studies may reveal better options elsewhere.
- Seqwater previously considered purchasing land at Meridian Plains, north-west of Caloundra, offered for sale by a private vendor. Seqwater decided to not proceed as the vendor was asking well above market rates. Instead, Seqwater decided to monitor the situation (the land is still on the market) and undertake more detailed siting studies, which are now almost complete.
- Unitywater has offered land for sale at Meridian Plains, through an expression of interest (EOI). Seqwater was only made aware of the sale process on Friday, 7 June, 2019 after the initial EOI had closed. Unitywater has agreed to allow Seqwater to submit an offer, which must be made by close of business on 13 June, 2019.
- The two parcels on offer have been independently valued for Seqwater at \$1.975M, and Seqwater will be offering just over this valuation at \$2.05M given the significance of this opportunity.
- The important details are:
 - a. two properties with a combined area of 53.6 hectares;
 - b. near a bulk water main pipeline;
 - c. approximately 4.5 kilometres directly from the coast;
 - d. planned power transmission corridor nearby.
- The site has a long history with water supply, and previously formed an off-stream storage harvesting scheme, servicing the Township of Caloundra. This scheme has since become redundant and existing infrastructure (Off stream storage – Ring Tank) on the site is in a semi-decommissioned (safe) state.

COMMUNICATION

- Unitywater have indicated they are likely to advise Seqwater and other bidders of the outcome on or around 17 June 2019.
- If successful, Seqwater does not intend to make any announcement.
- The key messages should Seqwater be successful are as follows:
 - a. Seqwater's 2017 Water Security Program identified a number of possible options for long-term supply augmentation, including recycled water and desalination. Augmentation was not required to be in place until about 2040.
 - b. Seqwater is continuing this planning and will not make any decisions about future sources for a number of years. Communities and stakeholders will be consulted as part of more detailed planning.
 - c. Seqwater has purchased land from Unitywater near Meridian Plains on the Sunshine Coast. This land, which includes a disused water storage, could be suitable for a future water source on the Sunshine Coast (including desalination or recycled water).
 - d. Seqwater wants to keep all options open for future water sources, and preserve where possible potential future sites.
 - e. Seqwater does not have resumption powers, and instead looks to purchase land that could be used to service population growth as it comes onto the market.

- f. This purchase is opportunistic, and no decisions have been made about future development for some years.
- g. The cost of the purchase will have an immaterial impact on bulk water prices.

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Schedule 3, section 2(1)(b) - Consideration of Cabinet

Site A1 and B – Desalination sites only

Meridian Plains (Ring Tank) cluster – Desalination and or Purified Recycled Water sites



The Hon Dr Anthony Lynham MP
Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy

Ref MO/18/3098
CTS 32070/18

12 NOV 2018

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PO Box 15216 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7360
Email nrm@ministerial.qld.gov.au
www.dnrme.qld.gov.au

Ms Fiona Simpson MP
Member for Maroochydore
Suite 1
Corner First and Memorial Avenues
MAROOCHYDORE QLD 4558

Dear Ms Simpson

Thank you for your letter of 23 October 2018 regarding the possibility of another desalination plant being built on the Sunshine Coast or Brisbane. I understand you are seeking advice on Seqwater's water supply plans and whether any sites on the Sunshine Coast are being considered for a desalination plant.

Seqwater's long-term water supply plan is called 'Water for life – South East Queensland's Water Security Program 2016–2046' (Water for Life) and the document is publicly available on Seqwater's website www.seqwater.com.au.

Water for Life identifies that no new water source in South East Queensland will be required until after 2030 and close to 2040, providing there is no severe drought or sharp rise in consumption. The next new water supply source in South East Queensland will however likely be needed on the Sunshine Coast due to projected population growth in the region.

Seqwater is preparing a revised version of Water for Life (version 3), to be published in 2022, and is investigating a number of options for bulk water sources around the Sunshine Coast including a new desalination plant, off-stream storage from the Mary River, raising of Borumba Dam and water recycling. No preferred option has been identified and there is sufficient time to investigate all options to find an optimal solution for the region before a decision needs to be made. This will include looking for potential sites for the different options being considered.

As part of its ongoing planning, Seqwater launched its Water Future community education and engagement plan as part of developing the next version of Water for Life. I was pleased to launch the education element of the program (H2O Kids) at Nambour State College in October 2018.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr Simon Zanatta, Chief of Staff who will be pleased to assist you and can be contacted on 3719 7360.

Yours sincerely

sch4p4(6) Personal information

Dr Anthony Lynham MP
Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy

Date : 15/03/2023 12:59:36 PM

From : "Carla Mears"

To : "Mark Breen" , "Correspondence"

Subject : RE: Desal corro

Attachment :

image009.png;image010.png;image011.png;image012.png;image013.png;image014.png;image015.png;image016.jpg;image017.png;image74415c.PNG;imageb7df4a.PNG;image8a8623.PNG;image0bd7d5.PNG;image1b24d2.PNG;imagece707d.PNG;image2bdf92.JPG;

Caution: this message came from outside of the organisation.
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Hi Mark,

Looks great, thanks for sharing.

Thanks,
Carla

Carla Mears Corporate Communications Team Leader



a 117 Brisbane Street | PO Box 328 | Ipswich QLD 4305

m 6) Personal | w www.seqwater.com.au

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From: Mark Breen <Mark.Breen@rdmw.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2023 12:56 PM

To: Correspondence <correspondence@seqwater.com.au>; Carla Mears <Carla.Mears@seqwater.com.au>

Subject: FW: Desal corro

Hi Carla – our draft reply as follows (thanks for your input). Please let me know of any suggested changes:

'Dear Mr Bleijie

Thank you for your dated 12 December 2022 regarding Seqwater's purchase of land located at Meridian Plains.

Seqwater is constantly planning for the region's ongoing water security. Seqwater's Water Security Program (WSP) sets out projected water demand from industry and the community over the next 30 years, and maps out the infrastructure necessary to address it, and when it is needed.

The WSP considers not only water demand but also projected rainfall, climate change, and other factors impacting supply, so water planning ensures supply matches demand. An update to the WSP is underway and the report will be made available to South East Queensland communities once this work is finalised.

Seqwater holds a parcel of land near Meridian Plains on the Sunshine Coast, which was acquired from Unitywater in 2019. Like other utilities and authorities, land purchases are at times undertaken to support strategic planning. No decisions have been made on any potential development of this land.

Seqwater follows a stringent approach to major projects, which includes ensuring any social or environmental impacts of a project are considered and managed appropriately, with the right environmental approvals in place.

As with any major Seqwater project that may have community impacts, Seqwater will ensure South East Queensland communities are engaged and kept informed of any confirmed future water security infrastructure'.

Thanks.

Mark



Mark Breen

Senior Policy Officer, Full time Monday to Friday

Strategic Coordination and Economics | Water Infrastructure and Strategic Coordination

Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water

P: (07) 3166 0116

E: mark.breen@rdmw.qld.gov.au

A: Level 5, 1 William St, Brisbane, QLD 4000

W: www.rdmw.qld.gov.au

From: Robert Hearn <Robert.Hearn@rdmw.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2023 9:52 AM

To: Carla Mears

Cc: Merryl Swan; Mark Breen

Subject: RE: Desal corro

Yeah, good idea. We'll send the draft through shortly.

Rob Hearn

Manager

Strategic Coordination and Economics | Water Infrastructure and Strategic Coordination

Department of Regional Development Manufacturing and Water

P 07 3199 4895 M (6) Personal

Robert.hearn@rdmw.qld.gov.au

From: Carla Mears <sch4p4(6) Personal information>

Sent: Tuesday, 14 March 2023 8:20 PM

To: Robert Hearn

Cc: Merryl Swan

Subject: Re: Desal corro

Hi Rob, yes fine to reference community consultation, though I'd suggest incorporating it into the last dot point where we discuss the approach to any major project, as opposed to referring to a project at this site specifically. The aim is to reinforce that there is no decision in relation to the future of this site at this stage.

Thanks

Carla

Carla Mears Corporate Communications Team Leader



a 117 Brisbane Street | PO Box 328 | Ipswich QLD 4305

m (6) Personal | w www.seqwater.com.au

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From: Robert Hearn <Robert.Hearn@rdmw.qld.gov.au>

Date: Tue, 14 Mar 2023, 7:24 pm

To: Carla Mears <sch4p4(6) Personal information>

CC: Merryl Swan <Merryl.Swan@rdmw.qld.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Desal corro

Thanks for getting back to me on this.

File A

Page 37 of 40

Would it be okay to say that any future development of that site would include community consultation, as that was one of the points raised in the letter – or is better not to mention this?

Rob Hearn

Manager

Strategic Coordination and Economics | Water Infrastructure and Strategic Coordination
Department of Regional Development Manufacturing and Water

P 07 3199 4895 M (6) Personal information
Robert.hearn@rdmw.qld.gov.au

From: Carla Mears (sch4p4(6) Personal information)

Sent: Tuesday, 14 March 2023 4:39 PM

To: Robert Hearn

Cc: Merryl Swan

Subject: RE: Desal corro

Hi Rob,

See below some proposed points for consideration:

- Seqwater's Water Security Program sets out projected water demand from industry and the community over the next 30 years, and maps out the infrastructure necessary to address it, and when it is needed. It considers not only water demand but also projected rainfall, climate change, and other factors impacting supply, so water planning ensures supply matches demand.
- Seqwater is constantly planning for the region's ongoing water security. An update to the Water Security Program is underway and the report will be made available to South East Queensland communities once this work is finalised.
- Seqwater does hold a parcel of land near Meridan Plains on the Sunshine Coast, which was acquired from Unitywater in 2019. Like other utilities and authorities, land purchases are at times undertaken to support strategic planning. No decisions have been made on any potential development of this land.
- Seqwater follows a stringent approach to major projects, which includes ensuring any social or environmental impacts of a project are considered and managed appropriately, with the right environmental approvals in place. As with any major Seqwater project that may have community impacts, Seqwater will ensure South East Queensland communities are engaged and kept informed of any confirmed future water security infrastructure.

Unitywater has reached out to us, flagging the Member for Kawana has placed a photo of the letter on a community Facebook page – see attached.

Is it possible for us to receive a copy of the finalised response, and to share the high level key message with Unitywater once finalised?

Thanks,
Carla

Carla Mears Corporate Communications Team Leader



a 117 Brisbane Street | PO Box 328 | Ipswich QLD 4305

m (6) Personal information | w www.seqwater.com.au

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From: Robert Hearn <Robert.Hearn@rdmw.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 14 March 2023 10:04 AM

To: Carla Mears (sch4p4(6) Personal information)

22-342

File A

Page 38 of 40

Cc: Merryl Swan <Merryl.Swan@rdmw.qld.gov.au>

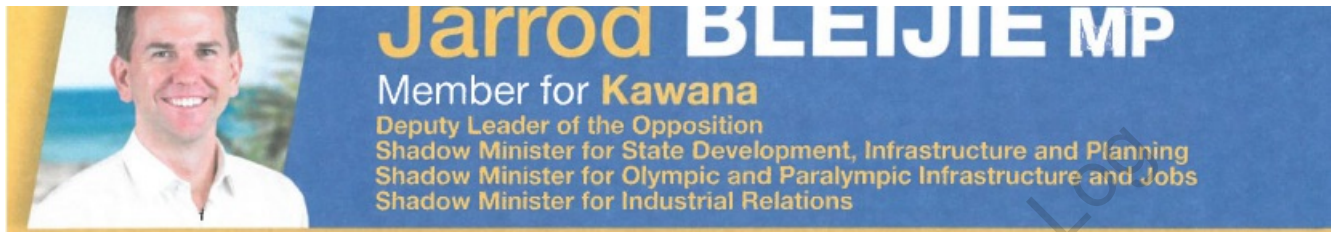
Subject: Desal corro

Hi Carla,

The Minister received the letter below, and we need to prepare a response by tomorrow.

Could you confirm what we can/cant say on this. Is it publicly announced the land was purchased for a potential desal? Aside from this I propose the response will just say that any desal will be developed through a business case process and include community consultation, and the role of desal in Seqwater's WSP is still being developed at an early planning stage, with potential sites still to be determined

Could you get back to me by COB today if possible – thanks



12 December 2022

The Honourable Glenn Butcher
Minister for Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water
1 William Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Minister Butcher

I refer to media reports that SEQ Water has purchased a property at Meridan Plains for a proposed desalination plant.

Despite this issue and speculation being in the media for some time, I understand there has been no consultation with my local community with respect to this issue. I can also confirm my office has not received any notification or information about this issue.

As you would appreciate, Meridan Plains is not directly adjacent to the beach so any desalination plant would require kilometres of infrastructure and pipes from the coast to the proposed site.

I have had many concerns raised with me with respect to this issue including but not limited to the potential environmental issues.

I seek your advice with respect to the proposal for a desalination plant in my electorate and would appreciate answers to the following questions:

1. The date SEQ Water purchased the property at Meridan Plains?
2. The Meridan Plains property lot and plan number?
3. Which beach is proposed to be the intake beach?
4. Has a business case been undertaken with respect to a proposal?
5. Has an Environmental Impact Assessment been undertaken? and
6. What alternatives to a desalination plant has the government considered.

As you would appreciate, without clarification on the abovementioned issues, angst will continue to grow in my community. I share these concerns with my community.

I would appreciate your responses at your earliest convenience.

Rob Hearn

Manager

Strategic Coordination and Economics | Water Infrastructure and Strategic Coordination
Department of Regional Development Manufacturing and Water

P 07 3199 4895 M (6) Personal i

Level 8, 1 William Street, BRISBANE QLD 4000

PO Box 15216 CITY EAST QLD 4002

Robert.hearn@rdmw.qld.gov.au

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