



Speech by

## Dr Mark Robinson

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

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### CLEVELAND ELECTORATE, WATER PRICES

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (9.19 pm): The rising price of water in the electorate of Cleveland and the broader Redlands has become a major concern to the rate-paying population. The ongoing issue stems from the fact that Redlands water, which once was cheap, is now on a pathway to more than double over the next seven years under this Labor government's mismanagement. This government has proven, in its poor water management policies alone, that it is not worthy of another term in office. Four years ago, Premier Bligh claimed that she would ensure water was 'not priced beyond the reach of ordinary Queenslanders'. Today it is clear that she has failed to live up to that promise. Water has become another Labor broken promise.

The problem in the Redlands is exacerbated because Redlanders remember what low-price water was like, and they have a good memory. Previous Redland councils planned well for the future water needs of the area. Redlands had control of its precious water seized, however, by the Labor government, and Redlanders have watched as this government has not done well with it and attempted to cut and run from its responsibility, leaving behind a price path that Redland residents would never have dreamed of.

The most recent manifestation of Labor failure to manage water is the utility Allconnex. Allconnex was never welcomed from the beginning in Cleveland and the Redlands by the general population. It was tolerated by some in the hope that it could not be as bad as something directly run by this incompetent government. However, Allconnex to date has not turned out to be such a good deal for Redland ratepayers. The Redlands council holds only a 10 per cent equity in Allconnex, and this is far too low. It should have been somewhere around 15 per cent.

Allconnex has not responded well to local concerns, and recent inconsiderate comments from Allconnex have further infuriated local residents. Something needs to be done to deal with this. Allconnex is a state government creation and the government cannot just wash its hands of responsibility. A major review of Allconnex operations is required before the people of Redlands will be happy. In fact, many in the Redlands are calling for it to be scrapped and for water management to again be placed under council control.

The LNP has committed to policies that drive state bulk water prices down. The Leader of the Opposition, John-Paul Langbroek, has committed the LNP to a policy of capping increases in the bulk water price to CPI. We will also thin out Labor's fat cat water bureaucracy. The LNP has also committed to preventing councils from price gouging water. The Leader of the Opposition introduced a policy to prevent price gouging and in recent days the Premier has been dragged into supporting our policy.

Residents are so angry at this government that they are deciding to do something about it. Ordinary citizens like Rose Doyle have become active locally by launching petitions. I have sponsored this petition as an e-petition in the Queensland parliament to bring down the cost of water. I commend the e-petition to the Queensland public, particularly the people of Cleveland and the Redlands.