



# Colin BOYCE MP

Member for **Callide**

## Premier Accused of Vote-Buying in Big City

Controversial LNP Member, Colin Boyce, says the over-spend on the Cross River Rail project in Brisbane could have paid for all the necessary repairs on Paradise Dam with change to spare.

The Member for Callide, who caused quite a stir recently when he crossed the floor on a Parliamentary vote, has accused the Palaszczuk Government of 'buying votes' with the Cross River Rail project.

Mr Boyce says farmers in the Callide and Bundaberg regions are disenchanted with the Queensland Labor Government which continues to turn its back on regional communities and regional infrastructure in favour of 'vote buying' projects like the Cross River Rail.

"I wonder if we'd be seeing a different approach to the remediation of Paradise Dam if it was a Labor seat," said Mr Boyce.

"The Premier has clearly decided she's not interested in buying votes in the Callide or Burnett seats given they are LNP held seats."

Recent media reports that the Palaszczuk Government has over-spent by \$600 - \$900 million on mistakes associated with the Cross River Rail have sparked frustration in the Bundaberg region where growers have been fighting since September 2019 for Paradise Dam to be remediated to full supply level.

South Bundaberg horticultural grower, Gino Marcon, is bitterly disappointed to learn of recent revelations that the Qld State Government has once again ignored expert advice in favour of what he and the Member for Callide call "vote buying" decisions.

"It feels like this Queensland Government is not only anti-dams and anti-farmers, they're also anti-engineers!" said Mr Marcon.

"They've ignored engineering advice regarding the best way to build the Cross River Rail, just as they've ignored sound engineering advice regarding the best way to remediate Paradise Dam."

"Now we learn that poor decision making on the Cross River Rail project from the Palaszczuk Government has resulted in major cost overruns," said Mr Marcon.

“The money they’ve wasted on the Cross River Rail mistakes would have paid for the repairs to Paradise Dam and this region would be able to continue to grow 25% of Australia’s fresh fruit and vegetables with confidence.”

Member for Callide, Colin Boyce also commented on the parallels between the two failed infrastructure projects.

“It is ironic that Graeme Newton oversaw the building of Paradise Dam when he was General Manager of Burnett Water and now he is the CEO of the Cross River Rail fiasco,” Mr Boyce said.

“Why does a man who also was in charge of the Traveston Dam debacle, which cost the Queensland taxpayers millions and millions of dollars, get the nod for another engineering project like Cross River Rail?”

“Going on his impressive track record, I’m guessing the Queensland Government will put him in charge of their “me-too” ‘Bradfield Scheme’ idea!”

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Media contact – Callide Electorate Office 4845 1100