



Speech by

**Mr M. HORAN**

**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH**

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Hansard 17 November 1998

**DARLING DOWNS VISION 2000; WATER SUPPLY**

**Mr HORAN** (Toowoomba South—NPA) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.21 a.m.): A wonderful opportunity exists in Queensland to provide real jobs and real economic growth, particularly in south-east Queensland, by piping recycled water from Brisbane to the Lockyer Valley and the Darling Downs.

A window of opportunity exists at present because major local government organisations, such as the Brisbane City Council, the Ipswich City Council and the councils of the Lockyer Valley are at this stage facing a cost of hundreds of millions of dollars to upgrade their sewage treatment plants in order to conform with environmental standards. That opportunity exists now because a working party in the Lockyer Valley has had a study completed by the Kinhill Group which shows how practical and realistic the proposal is. A working party on the Darling Downs Under Vision 2000 will have a completed working study finished in February of next year. When those two studies are completed, that is the opportune time to move immediately to a feasibility study so that this project can go ahead.

What it needs now is the will, determination, leadership and drive to make this happen, otherwise local governments will be left with the problem of having to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on upgrading their plants. Part of this money could go into this very important project, the end result of which will be a guaranteed water supply in the Lockyer Valley and the Darling Downs, which will generate new contracts, jobs, processing plants and light engineering and manufacturing work. In other words, it will lead to hundreds of new jobs, hundreds of millions of dollars more in farm income and probably hundreds of millions of dollars in extra economic growth and development. This is a great project for Queensland. Someone with drive is needed to make this project happen. The Opposition calls on the Government to gather together the drive to make this project happen. The window of opportunity will only be here once. It will be here early next year. We have provided the funding for the original study. Let us see it happen.

Time expired.

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