



Speech by

**Hon. WENDY EDMOND**

**MEMBER FOR MOUNT COOT-THA**

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Hansard 17 September 1998

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Water Quality**

**Hon. W. M. EDMOND** (Mount Coot-tha— ALP) (Minister for Health) (9.43 a.m.), by leave: I rise to advise the House on action this Government is taking on a very important public health issue: ensuring the quality of our water supplies. The situation in Sydney has highlighted the need to be vigilant constantly. I asked Queensland Health to establish an expert working party. This group will consider all issues associated with water-borne diseases and develop policies and standards to combat any potential risk to the community. The working party includes experts from the Departments of Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage, Premier and Cabinet, and Communication, Information, Local Government and Planning. It also includes the Local Government Association, relevant local councils and water boards, and representatives from scientific and academic disciplines. Queensland Health is taking the lead agency role.

The group met last week to develop protocols to address issues and identify activities to control and manage water-borne parasites such as cryptosporidium and giardia. This whole-of-Government approach will be most effective in ensuring Queensland develops consistent guidelines to deal with any threat to water quality.

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