



Speech by

Hon. ANNA BLIGH

MEMBER FOR SOUTH BRISBANE

Hansard 24 November 1999

URBAN WATERWAYS: NORMAN CREEK

Hon. A. M. BLIGH (South Brisbane—ALP) (Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services) (11.10 p.m.): I rise to express my concerns about growing pollution in urban waterways, specifically in Norman Creek, which runs through my electorate. This issue was brought to my attention by the students of Buranda State School, which backs onto this creek. I would like to read into Hansard a letter that was sent to me by some of the students. The letter states—

"Over the past few days we have noticed an excessive number of dead fish and some oil scum in the Norman Creek next to our school. We have also noticed that there aren't as many birds as usual.

We have never seen anything like this here before.

We are very upset about this because Norman Creek is very important to us for our science.

Last year we did numerous tests such as PH Level, turbidity, speed of the currents etc and we found that our creek was suitable for life.

Our camp this year was at Maroon Dam. We did some water studies there and the difference between the water there and our creek now, makes us shocked. Our creek is spoilt."

The letter is signed by a number of students on behalf of Year 6 and Year 7 students. Students also presented me with a petition that had been gathered by the school community and signed by children as young as grade 1. The Environmental Protection Agency sent an officer to accompany me to the school who was able to advise them—and I am pleased to see that the EPA has taken some action on this—that the waterways management plan would include regular monitoring of this creek, starting next year.

I would like to extend my congratulations to the whole school community, to the principal, Lyn Hinton, and their grade 7 teacher, Ms Desley Alexion. The parents of these young students can be very proud of their hard work and genuine commitment to the protection of their local environment. The future of our planet is indeed safe in the hands of these young people as its custodians.
