



Speech by

Mr L. SPRINGBORG

MEMBER FOR WARWICK

Hansard 11 March 1999

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS; WASTE WATER

Mr SPRINGBORG (Warwick—NPA) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.26 a.m.): My challenge today is to the can't do Minister for Natural Resources to lift the freeze and the stops that he has placed on at least eight major water projects around Queensland and also to guarantee the future of the waste water pipeline for which the planning processes and the assessment were put in place by the former Government.

It was one of my very great pleasures when I became the Minister for Natural Resources to have the opportunity to continue with the great work done by my predecessor Howard Hobbs in this area. A view that I have always had is that we should do far more to reuse water which is currently a by-product of our cities around Queensland. I think that Hervey Bay has been leading the way in this area over a considerable period.

At Luggage Point, something like 160,000 megalitres of effluent runs out to Moreton Bay each year. Something needs to be done about that. I am led to understand that it would cost over \$100m to upgrade the effluent treatment facility out there in order to take out the necessary amount of phosphates and nitrates to bring it up to a standard that could actually be dropped into Moreton Bay. I believe that it makes far more sense to be able to use that particular resource, which is not being used at the moment. We have many great communities around Queensland, particularly in south-east Queensland, that are crying out for the opportunity to actually use that waste water. Assessments are being done on the feasibility of taking it to the Lockyer.

When I was the Minister, I had the opportunity to set up an advisory committee, Vision 2000, based on the Darling Downs, which would look at tapping into that waste water and taking it to the Darling Downs, an area of very fertile soil and a vital economy. That area is crying out for far more water, and it would be great if we could continue with that program. There is a great opportunity there. Not only should it happen in this particular case, but it is something that we should be looking at extending right throughout Queensland as well.
