



Speech by

Hon. R. WELFORD

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Hansard 21 July 1999

WATER RESOURCES AMENDMENTS BILL

Hon. R. J. WELFORD (Evertton—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources) (11.48 a.m.): I move—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

The Water Resources Act 1989 provides for the constitution, by regulation, of a part of Queensland as a water supply or drainage area. A board for an area may be constituted in respect of works for water conservation, water supply, irrigation, drainage, flood prevention, flood control or the replenishment of underground water supplies.

Section 131 of the Act specifies a number of procedures to be followed before a regulation about an area or board may be made. These procedures include publication of a notice containing details of the proposed scheme and how objections may be lodged. While these provisions are appropriate for the establishment of areas and boards, they are not appropriate where subordinate legislation is merely being consolidated or remade.

The proposed amendments will enable the remaking, by one consolidated regulation, of more than 100 instruments due to expire by operation of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992 and the consolidation of all existing instruments relating to areas and boards. These amendments will enable the regulation to be made without having to repeat the advertising and objection processes undertaken when each instrument was made in the first instance. These amendments will apply only to the consolidation and remaking of subordinate legislation already made. They will not affect the procedures required for any other regulation relating to areas and boards.

A minor amendment is also being made to clarify that, under the transitional provisions of the Water Resources Act 1989, areas—other than irrigation or drainage areas—constituted under a repealed Act are to be treated as water supply areas. Another minor technical amendment will put beyond doubt the power to impose by regulation requirements on a purchaser of rights to a nominal allocation of water. The proposed amendments are minor technical amendments which will provide clarity and, through consolidation, greater access to legislation relating to areas and boards.

I commend the Bill to the House.
