



Speech by

**Hon. RUSSELL COOPER**

**MEMBER FOR CROWS NEST**

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Hansard 11 March 1999

**WATER**

**Hon. T. R. COOPER** (Crows Nest—NPA) (10.11 a.m.): I raise the policy issue of water in our State's dams and its usage. Some of these dams are used for domestic purposes only. I made deputations to the Deputy Premier in November last year on the issue of the pipeline from Wivenhoe Dam to Atkinson Dam. There are 150 irrigators relying on water security in that area. The meatworks expansion could generate upwards of 100 jobs in small towns. This is a policy matter that also relates to all other dams around the State. There are many other industries hanging in the balance.

The water is there and it should be utilised not only to provide water security, which is of paramount importance, but also for future expansion. There are other developments in the wind. Coalmines and power stations will require water. If additional water is required in the future, then quite obviously we have to build more dams and make other arrangements, such as piping renewable water from Luggage Point through the Lockyer and to the Darling Downs. The various options are possible and feasible and we should be engaging in those sorts of activities. I do not think we would get opposition from any quarter, especially when we are talking about renewable water.

Those communities are in great need in this regard. I do not think a decision can be put off. It should be pending. I think the Minister said that it would be the end of November. Time is running out. That we have had rain and flooding does not mean that the need for a pipeline has gone. The needs are there. A decision is needed now so that measures can be put in place.

Time expired.

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