



Speech by

DAVID DALGLEISH

MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY

Hansard 6 September 2000

WATER BILL

Mr DALGLEISH (Hervey Bay—CCAQ) (4.15 p.m.): Stradbroke Island water is piped to Redlands for local consumption, and it is top-quality water. Fraser Island also has an abundant supply of beautiful drinking water running into the ocean. At a time when consideration is being given to raising the Lenthals Dam wall and flooding a large area of land that has become home to a wide variety of wildlife, we are seeing major silting problems in the creeks and rivers because of the lack of run-off and flushing in the Burrum River system. We have the opportunity to avoid any further environmental destruction. If the Minister for Environment were serious about the environment, he would let us use the water from Fraser Island. I have attended many gatherings around Hervey Bay at which support has been expressed for a proposal to pipe water from Fraser Island. This would also be a means of raising revenue for the ongoing maintenance of Fraser Island.

Do the overpaid bureaucrats and greenies who make these decisions realise the ongoing effects that raising the dam wall will have? I say: no, no, no. They are interested in pandering to the minorities and looking after their bank accounts. The ongoing effects of Lenthals Dam have been devastating. Only last week I attended a meeting between DPI representatives and councillors regarding the silting problems that the waterways are suffering from. The Burrum River system is silting up and the bureaucrats are looking the other way; they have their head in the sand.

Mr Welford: Head in the silt.

Mr DALGLEISH: Yes, in the silt. I believe that they understand that this problem has been created primarily by the dam. We should leave the dam for emergency use only so that it fills up and remains full. Then we should harvest the beautiful water from Fraser Island and utilise this untapped natural resource.

I am not against dams in places where there is no other water supply. Hervey Bay is lucky; we have Tim Waldron leading the team of Wide Bay Water. Hervey Bay is setting the pace in water management. The skills of our first-class team at Wide Bay Water are in demand all over the world. Perhaps the Minister should have talked to Tim Waldron and had him help to get this Bill right the first time.

Mr Welford: I did, and he has.

Mr DALGLEISH: I spoke with him, too.

It is interesting to note that the Beattie Labor Government is set to punish the people from regional and rural Queensland for the actions of the city. The member for Sandgate summed it up in his contribution. He made it clear that he holds the farmers accountable for everything. How many hectares of natural land are left in Brisbane Central? Who is destroying our natural environment? I suggest we look at most of the Labor seats.
