



Speech by

Mr S. ROBERTSON

MEMBER FOR SUNNYBANK

Hansard 3 April 2001

NEW SOUTH WALES-QUEENSLAND BORDER RIVERS AMENDMENT BILL

Hon. S. ROBERTSON (Stretton—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines)
(6.56 p.m.): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

This bill seeks to amend the New South Wales-Queensland Border Rivers Act 1946 to ratify an amendment to the New South Wales-Queensland Border Rivers Agreement. The Border Rivers agreement concerns the sharing of the waters of the rivers and streams that form or intersect the border between Queensland and New South Wales. It also concerns the investigation, construction, operation and maintenance of works to conserve and regulate these waters.

The agreement is implemented by the Dumaresq-Barwon Border Rivers Commission. One of the commission's responsibilities is to determine the quantity of water that may be used by the states each year from the Border Rivers and to share that water between the states according to the provision of the Border Rivers agreement.

This bill amends the act and ratifies an agreement amending the original agreement. It will allow the commission to approve that the states may carry over any part of their unused share from one year to the next. This formally provides the scope for each state to better manage and more effectively use its available water resources across water years.

Increasingly, water service providers have been moving to this form of managing water infrastructure and related water supplies. An amending agreement does not take effect until it has been ratified by each of the two states under their relevant acts.

The New South Wales Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Land and Water Conservation is taking the necessary steps to have the agreement ratified by the New South Wales parliament.

I commend the bill to the House.
