



Speech by

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BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL, FLOOD REPORT

Mr HOBBS (Warrego—NPA) (7.21 p.m.): Tonight I want to talk about the Brisbane City Council flood report and issues surrounding that. In June 2003 details were leaked of the 1999 Sinclair Knight Merz report which suggested that the 1984 study in terms of the city development control levels was in fact understated. DNR also suggested the same at the time. The 1984 study was based on a once in 100-year flow of 6,800 cubic metres a second. The 1993 DNR study suggested that it was 9,380 cubic metres a second. That is 40 per cent up on the original estimate of the city development control levels.

The 1998 Sinclair Knight Merz figure was 9,560 cubic metres a second. In 1999 the council planners June report said that it was about 8,600 cubic metres a second and the 1999 council planners December report said that it was about 8,000. With the final report that has come out, the further consultants have said an average of 6,000—in other words, between 5,000 and 7,000 cubic metres a second.

There was a two-year delay after DNR reported before this report was commissioned. That is where the problem lies. It is interesting that there were no minutes of discussions, or no records of it. That is interesting and also disappointing. I notice that in the paper John Wanna talked about the fact that it was acceptable practice that civic cabinets and cabinets at a federal and state level often have unminuted meetings. I was a cabinet minister and we did not have too many of those. We obviously had a general discussion but, generally speaking, when talking about an important matter it was minuted.

The Brisbane City Council has placed itself in a position of difficulty in that a QC has said that it could be guilty of negligence and could have been sued for misleading and deceptive conduct. In fact, it might have even breached the Trade Practices Act. I say to the Brisbane City Council that it must make sure that the information it has now is publicly available. Apparently it is available, but only if a person goes in and writes it down. It cannot be taken away; it cannot be photocopied. In the best interests of everybody, it would be far better to throw the information open—it could put it on the web site or whatever it wants to do—but it needs to make sure that it is available. Truth in science is something that this government is not very good at, and we do not want the Brisbane City Council embroiled in an issue like this as well.