



Speech by

**Hon. K. LINGARD**

**MEMBER FOR BEAUDESERT**

---

Hansard 13 May 2003

**WATER AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

**Hon. K. R. LINGARD** (Beaudesert—NPA) (10.04 p.m.): I want to make a short comment to the minister on behalf of my own constituents. Anyone who wishes to have a look at the drought situation in the south-east should drive to beautiful Boonah and see the Moogerah Dam which at present is down to 2.2 per cent capacity. Considering the fact that you cannot get under 0.6 per cent, there is very little left in that particular dam. But the other dam is the Maroon Dam, and that is the one I wish to make a quick comment about.

To look at what has happened with the Maroon Dam is to see what has happened since SunWater has come in and controlled water in Queensland. In the old days with Maroon Dam, the water boards and water advisory committees probably did not allocate any more than 60 per cent of the water in the dam, so there was always 40 per cent retained for the times of drought. That was there for agricultural viability, which I believe both of those dams were built for. However, SunWater allocated at least 100 per cent of the water.

**Mr Robertson:** At least 100 per cent?

**Mr LINGARD:** If the minister is sitting there, he would also realise that there are the tributaries and the creeks that flow around the dam which are also allocated. So 100 per cent of the dam and the tributaries and the creeks around the dam are being allocated. So, minister, whilst it might have seemed ridiculous, seemingly your comment is just as ridiculous.

What I am trying to say is that with SunWater the allocation is 100 per cent. That is to both irrigators and to all of the industries that come down along the Logan River. In times of drought when the allocation of water is looked at and A. J. Bush is looked at, they say that we cannot take the water away from A. J. Bush because they take all the offal from south-east Queensland, and if we did not give any water to A. J. Bush, A. J. Bush would not continue. Similarly, many workers in south-east Queensland would lose their jobs. Similarly, because Davis Gelatine makes two per cent of the Australian gelatine, obviously water cannot be taken away from it. We cannot take the water away from Beaudesert town. So when the water gets down extremely low, the ones who miss out are the farmers. They are the first ones to lose water. A. J. Bush and Davis Gelatine continue on.

With this continual 100 per cent of allocation of water out of a dam by SunWater, it is the farmers who are affected. The farmers are now saying that they are concerned that if water is taken from creeks like Christmas Creek and Running Creek, which provide a little bit more than 100 per cent of allocation, for Beaudesert town then quite obviously they are going to miss out in times of drought. My constituents are saying to the minister that when he is looking at allocations and looking at SunWater and looking at requests by Beaudesert shire for a pipeline to be placed from Brisbane city to Woodhill and from Woodhill to Beaudesert city, that he would look at that very generously because, quite obviously, these people are being affected by the many industries which are along the Logan River and which are taking large allocations of water from Maroon Dam, and in times of drought the ones who are missing out are the agricultural people.