



Speech by

Hon. Andrew Fraser

MEMBER FOR MOUNT COOT-THA

Hansard Thursday, 7 June 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Yangan, Water Pipeline

Hon. AP FRASER (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Planning and Sport) (10.11 am): In November last year I approved the Warwick Shire Council's application for assistance to construct a pipeline to the township of Yangan. Warwick Shire Council put a case that more funding support was required. As a result, I asked for the original assessment to be reviewed. The original subsidy offer was thereafter increased by \$249,000 to a total of some three quarters of a million dollars. That is 60 per cent of the total cost of \$1.248 million for the project. In any terms, it is a substantial contribution.

Six months down the track each resident of this town, which has a population of just over 200, is asking, not unreasonably, why the pipeline has still not been commenced by the Warwick Shire Council. The people of Yangan are angry and have every right to be. They draw their water supply from four bores in the district but this water is of dubious quality. In fact, it is mostly red in colour and suitable only for flushing, according to many local residents.

So why has the pipeline not been built? The simple answer is that the Warwick Shire Council is dithering on delivering this important project. The project would pump water to Yangan from the Warwick water treatment plant which draws its supply from the Leslie Dam. The state government has made a significant financial contribution towards the pipeline—more than half the cost.

This is an exasperating time for the people of Yangan who are trapped in a peculiar uncertainty. They have indicated that they are willing to pay an annual fee to council of some \$333 to access the water in the pipeline. In return, council has again surveyed the residents giving them until tomorrow to indicate whether they would support an annual fee of now \$480. This situation needs to reach a conclusion.

Today I will meet with a delegation of Yangan residents, along with the member for Southern Downs, to hear their concerns about this project firsthand. I again take the opportunity to implore the council to do the right thing. The reason I approved funding for this pipeline is that the Warwick Shire Council put in an application for a subsidy for the pipeline. The Warwick Shire Council thought the pipeline was a good idea when it put in the application and it remains a good idea today. I approved a subsidy that amounts to more than half the cost and the Warwick Shire Council should get on with the job.