



Speech by

Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

Hansard Wednesday, 10 October 2007

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Miss SIMPSON (Maroochydore—NPA) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.46 am): Today the Deputy Premier outlined progress on the northern interconnector water pipeline. The first stage will take 65 megalitres of water from Baroon Pocket Dam to hook into the greater Brisbane water supply. Currently, Maroochy and Caloundra use 64 megalitres a day from this dam, so it is a radical drawdown on the Sunshine Coast's supplies. We understand that Brisbane is desperate and no-one wants Brisbane to run out of water and there should be the ability to help out in emergency situations. However, the level of proposed drawdown from the Sunshine Coast's supplies is dangerously high and goes beyond an emergency bailout.

There is grave concern in the Sunshine Coast community that this government does not care and that its water decisions are about politics rather than good planning. We saw that with the Traveston Dam decision. The Sunshine Coast's cup full of water may be almost full, but Brisbane requires a bathtub. I am calling on the government to give Sunshine Coast residents a guarantee of water security once the 65 megalitres a day is taken out of the coast's supplies from the end of next year. And do not tell residents that bringing on Ewan Maddock Dam is going to give that security, because that is just downright dishonest as Ewan Maddock is insufficient to replace 65 megalitres a day which the government is proposing.

Let us look at the second stage of the interconnector, which substantially deviates from existing easements with no explanation from the government as to why. I will declare that my parents' place is in an Energex corridor and is affected by a section of the second stage of the northern interconnector near Yandina and I am not making representations on their behalf. However, I am getting extensive feedback from residents who are nowhere near existing easements but who are receiving a notice of entry which includes the power to actually start construction of structures on their property. They have been given no community consultation, despite what the Deputy Premier told this House today. In fact, they ask for maps and they are told by government officials, 'We don't have maps.' I have seen one draft map and I do not understand why this government is hiding this information. We must have an open and accountable process rather than these bullyboy tactics.

Time expired.