



Speech by

## Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

Hansard Wednesday, 14 November 2007

---

### WATER RESTRICTIONS

**Miss SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—NPA) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.37 am): The Auditor-General's report that was tabled in the parliament today has let the cat out of the bag in relation to level 7 water restrictions only a few days after the Queensland Water Commission denied their existence. The history of water restrictions is one of dishonesty with this government. Water restrictions and the cost impact of them are something that this government does not want to talk about. Last year, Anna Bligh laughed off the existence of tougher water restrictions, denying the existence of level 5 and level 6 water restrictions. Nine months ago she flippantly dismissed the prospect of level 6 water restrictions, which will now be implemented this month.

On Tuesday of this week, the Queensland Water Commission—the government's main water administration body—said that there would be no level 7 water restrictions. But they are referred to in the Auditor-General's report, which was tabled in parliament. Labor has been dishonest about water restrictions and their impact. South-east Queenslanders have been doing their bit. They know that the water supply crisis is serious, but they have been treated like mushrooms.

The Premier claimed that she tabled the ACIL Tasman report on commercial water use in south-east Queensland yesterday. She did not. She tabled only a few pages. I table the whole report, because it is worth reading.

*Tabled paper:* Copy of report, dated May 2007, by ACIL Tasman titled 'Commercial Water Use in South East Queensland—three studies of the impact of reduced water supply'.

That report talks about the impact of cutting water use by 25 per cent and what that would mean for businesses, with up to 20,000 jobs lost and up to a \$5 billion impact on the economy of south-east Queensland.

It seems that the government has a motto of 'Don't ask and don't know', but the reality is that others pay the price. Queenslanders are paying the price of Labor's failure to plan and manage for growth and failure to plan and manage for climate change. This water crisis has been one of this government's own making. South-east Queenslanders have all pulled together to make extraordinary savings owing to the water crisis which has been created by Labor's decision not to build new and timely water infrastructure years ago.

Time expired.