



Speech by

**Hon. PETER BEATTIE**

**MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL**

Hansard Tuesday, 4 September 2007

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **South-East Queensland Water Consumption**

**Hon. PD BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.36 am): The people of south-east Queensland have also responded magnificently to our water crisis, the worst drought on record. The latest figures from the Queensland Water Commission show that residents in south-east Queensland are averaging just 127 litres of water use a day compared to our target of 140 litres a day. A week earlier that figure fell as low as 123 litres a day. That usage is well under half the average daily water use by Queensland residents prior to the introduction of water restrictions.

The recent rains have elevated combined dam water levels for south-east Queensland to more than 20 per cent—similar to levels of mid-April 2007. While we need much more rain to break the drought and fill our dams, the recent rain has provided a welcome reprieve as we hope and pray for a good wet season in 2007-08. This excellent result prompted an article in the *Courier-Mail* reporting that Brisbane is the best water-saving community in the developed world. I thank the people of the south-east corner for their contribution. I seek leave to have details incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

According to the article, South East Queensland residents use less water than water deprived Israel.

South East Queensland's water use is well below water use recorded in the United States of America, where residents use an average of 380 litres a day, and Britain, where the average consumption is 150 litres per person each day.

This substantial reduction in water usage shows that South East Queensland residents have recognised the severity of the drought, have embraced the need to conserve water and have actively implemented water saving measures.

I thank them and congratulate them on their efforts.