



Speech by

## Hon. Andrew Fraser

MEMBER FOR MOUNT COOT-THA

Hansard Tuesday, 11 March 2008

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### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

#### Water Management

**Hon. AP FRASER** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Treasurer) (10.16 am): This weekend not only heralds the beginning of a new dawn for local government in Queensland but also brings a new era in the management of our precious water supplies. By Sunday morning some key south-east Queensland councils will be new entities after amalgamation and in the lead-up to Saturday's historic local government elections, and they will also have greater security in the supply of their water.

On Friday the state government will assume management of the bulk water assets of south-east Queensland councils, which will either merge or undergo boundary changes as part of the local government reform process. On Friday the bulk water assets of those councils, including, Kilcoy, Pine Rivers, Caboolture and Esk, will be transferred to the government owned Queensland Bulk Water Supply Authority and the Queensland Bulk Water Transport Authority. This will be another step in untangling the unworkable, maze-like network that was formerly charged with managing our water resources. The transfer of assets involves a simultaneous transfer of 28 employees from the councils to the new bulk water authorities.

This latest transfer of assets is the third stage of the south-east Queensland urban water reforms announced by the government in March last year. It follows the successful transfer of shares in SEQ Water Corporation to the Queensland Bulk Water Supply Authority on 1 February and the assets and staff of Aquagen on 1 March, as I have previously advised the House. This latest transfer will see total compensation of about \$200 million paid to those councils, which will wipe off debt and give the new councils a financial head start. The ratepayers of those newly amalgamated shires can be assured that by the weekend they will have greater security over their supply of water.