




Speech By  
**Robbie Katter**

**MEMBER FOR MOUNT ISA**

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**Forsyth Water Supply**

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (7.24 pm): I rise in the House to talk about the water supply in Forsyth in the Etheridge shire. Forsyth has a population of 137 people with only about 64 to 70 service connections. This year it has had no monsoonal rains—or nothing significant—and the water supply in the dam is half its capacity. Last year in March rainfall was 412 millimetres compared to March this year, where there was 21 millimetres. They are struggling at the moment. This time last year the dam was at full capacity. It holds about 5.8 metres. It is at three metres now. You cannot use all the water because once it gets to a certain level the siphon does not work. They are at a critical point in their water supply.

This morning I asked the water minister about that and it seems as though there will be no help forthcoming for that town, which is a problem because they are going to have to start trucking water in and that will cost them \$400,000 per annum. There is precedence for helping small towns. A similar situation occurred in Cloncurry in 2008-09 and they received assistance with the cost of freighting water by rail and Cloncurry paid pumping costs. The bigger issue is that they will need a permanent water supply there. This is not a council that has frittered money around the place on bells and whistles in their shire. They have been prudent over the years. It is not a case of them spending money where they should not. They have just not had the money to improve that water supply. They want to put a dam on the Delaney River. I think in the future that is something that needs to be looked at. In consideration of the large-scale irrigation projects that are planned for that area, there is a huge opportunity there for Queensland to develop agriculture and irrigation. The proposed project is really getting wheels. It will mean an expansion of the town. Already the neighbouring town of Georgetown is suffering from water supply issues. This is something critical. It is a perfect example of where government support for the development of infrastructure in these areas can promote more industry which will keep giving to the state of Queensland for many years to come.

I encourage the minister to think about the response he gave us this morning. We are not so much talking about just helping out those ratepayers who might be slugged with an extra \$2,000 to \$4,000 on their bill this year to try to cover the cost of water if it was passed on directly, otherwise it will be on the back of the council; what we are talking about here is long-term—

*(Time expired)*