




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR ALBERT

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WATER LEGISLATION (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (4.42 pm): I rise to make a very short contribution to the Water Legislation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Amendment Bill 2014. This bill is designed to improve the state's powers to respond to and manage water supply in the event of an emergency. Our wet season is fast approaching. While I certainly hope western regions receive ample rain to help their situation in the drought, in the south-east we need to prepare, just in case. The best way to prepare is through better legislation.

Many of us will never forget the devastating floods that struck South-East Queensland in 2011 and again in 2013. I say to all of those volunteers who gave up their time to help those in need, you are the embodiment of a true Queenslander. The State Emergency Service, the Rural Fire Service, the ordinary mums and dads—to name a mere few—were shining examples of our community spirit and personified the mud army. Certainly, from the Albert electorate a lot of volunteers travelled north to help their families and brethren in the Brisbane region and in the Lockyer Valley. It is from history that we should learn so that we can more prudently manage in the future.

I wish to speak about two aspects of the bill. Firstly, the bill amends the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 to allow a service provider the ability to commence emergency water restrictions on the day that they are announced. This amendment removes potential delays in implementing necessary measures to manage a situation. However, the bill requires the service providers to give notice of restrictions to customers by, for example, radio, television broadcast and other electronic media. This ensures clear communications to actual consumers. An example of an emergency occurred during the 2013 floods when high levels of turbidity in the Brisbane River caused the shutdown of the Mount Crosby Water Treatment Plant, which left parts of Brisbane in a precarious situation with a reliable water supply in limited reserves. I recall the need to impose restrictions. Even though the need was immediate and desperate, notification time frames caused a delay in getting the message out.

The second part of the bill that I would like to briefly talk about is the temporary full-supply level declarations and authorised alternative operating procedures, which are designed to better manage the impact of potential floods in South-East Queensland. The amendment will allow quicker decision making to temporarily reduce dam levels in Wivenhoe, Somerset and North Pine dams to respond to existing or potential flood events. That streamlines the system for faster response times to help mitigate future flood events. This is a very well thought out bill and I commend the minister for putting it together. I commend the bill to the House.