



Speech By  
**Shane Knuth**


**MEMBER FOR HILL**

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Record of Proceedings, 4 September 2018

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Hill Electorate, Water Supply**

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (7.16 pm): I wish to raise the burden of current boil water restrictions on communities on the Tablelands and the implications if these restrictions continue indefinitely. On 17 January this year, the Tablelands Regional Council issued boil water notices to communities across the southern Tablelands on advice from Queensland Health and the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. It has now been eight months and boil water notices are still in place for the Ravenshoe, Bellview, Cassowary, Millstream, Carrington and Herberton supply schemes. It is appalling that this government is unable or unwilling to do what is necessary to provide these communities with clean, drinkable water.

Schools do not have the facilities to boil water in accordance with public health standards and have to provide students and staff with bottled water at enormous costs and increased pressure on resources and staff. There is a growing number of plastic bottles piling up as the community is forced to purchase bottled water or store boiled water. The business community is gutted as caravan tourists, who are greeted with boil-water notices as they come into town, have to drive through to towns that can provide the clean water they require. This is a community that depends heavily on its share of the Tablelands \$120 million tourism industry. These communities have fought hard to capitalise on the beautiful environment and the historical assets to attract more grey nomads to the town.

The community is sick of being shuttled between government bodies, with everybody throwing their hands in the air and saying that nothing can be done. The state government needs to invest in significant infrastructure to meet Queensland Health standards. There have been alternative bore and groundwater sources put forward by community members to address the water turbidity issues. It is imperative that the government takes responsibility to resolve this problem before the next wet season further drags out this problem.