



Speech By
Mark Robinson

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

Record of Proceedings, 16 February 2017

WATER (LOCAL MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (3.48 pm): I rise to speak to the Water (Local Management Arrangements) Amendment Bill 2016. It was the LNP that initiated this legislation while in government in response to local councils and local residents. Under this slow-motion Labor government, however, there have been delays in the process and many are eager for progress to be made and for the government to stop holding their regions back. The explanatory notes state—

The objectives of the Bill are to amend the Water Act 2000 to facilitate the restructure and transfer of a number of SunWater's channel irrigation schemes to local management arrangements (LMA). This will be achieved primarily by establishing a legislative transfer scheme, enabling a staged transition of potentially up to eight schemes.

As other speakers have noted, the first four schemes are Emerald, Eton, St George and Theodore. The remaining four schemes—Bundaberg, Burdekin-Haughton, Lower Mary and Mareeba-Dimbulah—require further investigation and government determination to ascertain their viability.

The Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee handled the scrutiny of this bill. It was a pleasure to be the deputy chair of the committee. I thank the secretariat, the chair and the committee members for the professional way they all went about their work. The committee's report No. 36 recommended that the bill be passed. There was broad support for the objectives of the bill from stakeholders, most of whom made submissions to the committee. LMA Support Services stated at the public hearing—

I can say on behalf of the chairmen of the eight schemes that we all endorse the process that is taking place and that we believe that it is in the best interests of our customers and our communities which these schemes service that we move to a local management structure.

I agree with that assessment. My contribution to the debate will be brief. I will not repeat what has already been stated by other speakers except to say that, so long as the schemes are properly funded and local councils are treated in a proper way, I support the bill.