

WATER (COMMONWEALTH POWERS) BILL

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill with the amendments indicated by the following schedule, to which amendments the Legislative Council desires the concurrence of the House of Assembly:

- No.1. Clause 3, page 2, line 20—After 'national security costs' insert:
or cause permanent plantings that exist on the commencement of this act to be lost
- No. 2 Clause 3, page 3—After line 3 insert:
permanent plantings means any trees, bushes, vines or palms, maintained for the purpose of the production of food for human consumption, that yield more than one crop after planting if properly maintained;

Consideration in committee.

The Hon. K.A. MAYWALD: I move:

That the Legislative Council's amendments be disagreed to.

Mr PEDERICK: There is a lot of talk in this and the other place about the basin plan, but there is still a major flaw, even with the formalising of the new agreement, if it all goes ahead between the states and commonwealth, and we are still not managing the basin as a whole. I fear as a South Australian that with drought, which we all recognise in the southern part of the Murray-Darling Basin, we are not getting our share of any water that falls in the north. The minister mentioned the Menindee Lakes. We are a long way off ever sharing that water unless we have massive floods, because the two lakes they are using at the moment have a maximum surcharge capacity of 615 gigalitres, so they will never get to the 640 gigalitres to share through the Murray-Darling Basin Commission involving the three states.

We already have far too much development—it is going on as we speak—in southern Queensland and northern New South Wales on the Warrego. With the Macquarie Marshes, we have had New South Wales rubber stamp illegal banks. I have mentioned in this place before that, as those who are at the bottom of the system, we used to get 20 per cent of our water from the Darling. We are certainly getting there as far as referring our powers to the commonwealth, but we have a long way to go before we can say that this is anywhere like a whole-of-basin plan and managing those northern waters. I am interested in the minister's comments on that.

The Hon. K.A. MAYWALD: I thank members opposite for their cooperation in this matter and look forward to this legislation being implemented.

Motion carried.

MURRAY-DARLING BASIN BILL

Returned from the Legislative Council without any amendment.

[Sitting extended beyond 18:00 on motion of Hon. K.A. Maywald]

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The Legislative Council agreed not to insist on its amendments to which the House of Assembly had disagreed.