

use and management of the State's water resources is essential for maintaining and enhancing our total quality of life. This means achieving sustainable economic development and fulfilling important social and physical needs, while ensuring that the health of the water resources and the associated ecosystems are protected. As one of a range of measures needed to reach these goals, we must ensure that South Australian legislation can address these issues and help bring about the best possible management of our precious resources.

In September last year, after a comprehensive program of community consultation, the Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources tabled the State Water Plan entitled '*Our Water, Our Future*', outlining South Australia's needs for a strategic framework for management of water resources, which needs are not being met by the current legislation. The framework reflected certain trends in State and national approaches to water resources management which have emerged over recent years, and included strategic aims such as:

- *meaningful community participation* in the management of natural resources, recognising the role of the community in implementing plans through on-ground works and measures, and the right of the community to participate in the setting of natural resources management goals and objectives;
- *an integrated approach to natural resources management*, recognising that it is not sensible to continue to manage water resources in isolation from other natural resources, and from other responsibilities relating to, for example, the control of development, pollution, and pest plants and animals;
- *a greater transparency and certainty of decision making*, based on community-developed and Government approved management plans;
- *a greater emphasis on the collection and availability of relevant data*, recognising the importance of adequate information to assist decision-making; and
- *a separation of the roles* of water service delivery (that is, commercial water supply such as SA Water's domestic supplies) from water resources management (that is, looking after the health and availability of the resource in its natural state), to avoid conflicts of interest.

These strategic aims are reflected in the principles endorsed by this Government through its participation in a number of national agreements and strategies, and State initiatives. The Water Resources Bill has been prepared with these aims firmly in mind.

Following eight months of wide consultation over community opinions and aspirations on the review of the Water Resources Act 1990, in May 1996 the Government released for public consultation a draft Water Resources Bill, which was accompanied by an Explanatory Report and an Index to the Bill. Four months of intense public and stakeholder consultation ensued, with numerous public meetings and detailed briefings given by the Government. A great number of written responses were received, showing the breadth of community interest in this most important of legislative initiatives.

All responses were reviewed by the Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources and Departmental staff. A great many were extremely constructive, and have been taken on board and are reflected in the Bill.

The Government was greatly assisted throughout the review process by a Committee of Members of Parliament. Those members, Kent Andrew, Member for Chaffey (Chair); Robert Brokenshire, Member for Mawson; Malcolm Buckby, Member for Light; Dorothy Kotz, Member for Newland; Peter Lewis, Member for Ridley; and Ivan Venning, Member for Custance, put careful effort into reviewing various drafts of the consultation papers and the draft Bill, and their views on community requirements and concerns have been invaluable.

The central features of the Water Resources Bill are:
The principles of ecologically sustainable development

The Bill has only one stated Object: the establishment of a system for water resources management which will achieve the ecologically sustainable development of the State's water resources. That is, a system which will provide the maximum social, economic and environmental benefits for present generations, while still allowing those same benefits to be reaped by future generations.

Environmental water needs are explicitly recognised throughout the Bill, in planning for resource management and in the allocation of water resources to consumptive users, and measures for protecting the environment against unforeseen consequences of consumptive use or other activities affecting water dependent environments.

WATER RESOURCES BILL

Received from the House of Assembly and read a first time.

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW (Minister for Transport): I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

I seek leave to have the second reading explanation inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

Water resources management in South Australia, as elsewhere in Australia, continues to face challenges of the most fundamental importance to the sustainable development of the State. The proper

The Bill takes a holistic view of water resources, ensuring comprehensive consideration of all types of naturally occurring water as well as possibilities for use and development of alternative sources such as wastewaters.

Integrated resources management

The need for better integration and co-ordination of efforts in natural resources management has been raised as a major issue for natural resource managers at all levels. The Water Resources Bill is an important step towards the resolution of this matter.

The Bill provides for integration in the management of water with related natural resources at a number of practical levels, as well as at strategic levels. These measures include consistency in planning and streamlining of applications under various related Acts to carry out works or activities. Effective integration will be further facilitated by a series of consequential amendments to other Acts.

A significant provision in the Bill that will assist in integration at the operational level is the ability to vest an existing appropriate body with the powers and functions of a catchment water management Board. I believe that this provision amongst others will be shown to be a most important step towards effective integrated resource management at the local level. It could be used, for example, to resolve the separation of surface and groundwater management that presently exists in the South East of the State.

Devolving greater responsibility for management to local communities

Building on the success of the existing catchment water management Boards established by this Government through legislation passed at the beginning of last year, the Bill provides for communities to take a much greater degree of responsibility in the management of local water resources where they are willing and able to do so.

These opportunities are provided to an important extent through the transparency and accountability that will accompany the use of community-developed management plans for all managed water resources. However, most importantly is the opportunity for the public to have a more direct management role through the establishment of catchment water management Boards.

The membership of the Boards is fundamental to the success of this program of community involvement in management of resources. Criteria for nomination of members to Boards is skills and expertise in a relevant field (recognising that fields other than strict resource management may be appropriate to make up a Board).

The types of skills, experience, local knowledge and understanding that will need to be brought to Boards will differ in each region. The Bill provides a broad range of possibilities, although it keeps as core skills local knowledge and active community membership, resource use and management, conservation, and local government. The openness of the selection process, with the emphasis firmly placed on essential skills, will ensure that the best people with the most appropriate skills will be assembled to achieve the visions for management of the resources of each area. The Government proposes to seek the widest possible range of nominations through open advertisements. Members with necessary skills will then be selected, with the assistance of the Water Resources Council, an independent body established by the legislation, which is widely representative of the diversity of interests to be taken into account.

South Australian Water Resources Council

The Bill provides for a Water Resources Council as a 'peak' body, charged with very specific functions of a strategic nature. The Council will comprise five experts; four of whom will be selected by the Minister from nominations of key interest groups: the Local Government Association, the South Australian Farmers' Federation, the Conservation Council of South Australia and catchment water management Boards.

The function of the Council is to assess, five-yearly, the efficacy of the State Water Plan in achieving the Object of the Act. The Council will also assess catchment water management plans and water allocation plans as directed by the Minister, and may investigate and assess other issues relating to the administration of the Act.

Management of all water resources through water management plans

In keeping with the thrust of this Bill to provide much greater opportunities to those who will be affected by water resources

decisions, to participate in determining the goals, directions and techniques for that management, the Bill provides that all water resources will be managed through water plans developed, prepared and regularly reviewed through a comprehensive process of consultation.

The plans range from the State Water Plan, setting the State wide strategic directions for water resources management, but also able to provide 'nuts and bolts' management for resources through plans of local committees, to Board's catchment water management plans, or plans of local councils where no Board has been established for the area, and water allocation plans, dealing with the management criteria for licensed resources. Conditions for licensed resources may even include on-site water management plans to be developed by licensees.

'Property rights' system for water licences

The Bill allows full transferability of both licences and the water allocations endorsed on them. It also creates a register of licences through which third party interests in water licences (such as the interests of mortgagors) can be protected, and through which an effective market in water allocations can evolve.

I commend this Bill to the House.

Explanation of Clauses

PART 1

PRELIMINARY

Clauses 1 and 2

These clauses are formal.

Clause 3: Interpretation

This clause provides definitions of terms used in the Bill.

Clause 4: Act binds Crown

This clause provides that the Crown is bound and that all agencies and instrumentalities of the Crown must endeavour to act consistently with the State Water Plan and all other water plans.

Clause 5: Application of Act

This clause provides that the Bill is subject to Acts and agreements set out in the clause.

PART 2

OBJECT OF THIS ACT

Clause 6: Object

This clause sets out the object of the Act.

PART 3

RIGHTS IN RELATION TO WATER

Clause 7: Right to take water

This clause sets out rights in relation to the taking of water. It is important to keep in mind the broad definition of "to take" water in clause 3 of the Bill.

Clause 8: Declaration of prescribed water resources

This clause provides for the declaration of water resources by the Governor on recommendation by the Minister. The Minister must undertake a process of public consultation before making a recommendation.

PART 4

CONTROL OF ACTIVITIES AFFECTING WATER DIVISION 1—CONTROL OF ACTIVITIES

Clause 9: Water affecting activities

This clause controls activities that affect water by requiring a water licence or authorisation under section 11 for the taking of water or a permit for other activities referred to in the clause.

Clause 10: The relevant authority

This clause defines the relevant authority for the purposes of granting a water licence or a permit.

Clause 11: Certain uses of water authorised

This clause enables the Minister, by notice in the Gazette, to authorise the taking of water from a prescribed water resource.

Clause 12: Activities not requiring a permit

This clause sets out activities for which a permit is not required.

Clause 13: Notice to rectify unauthorised activity

This clause enables a relevant authority to direct a person who has undertaken an activity without authority to rectify the effects of that activity.

Clause 14: Obligation of owner to maintain watercourse or lake

This clause enables a relevant authority to direct the owner or occupier of land to maintain a watercourse or lake that is on or adjoins the land.

Clause 15: Minister may direct removal of dam, etc.

This clause enables the Minister, on the recommendation of a catchment water management board, to direct the owner of land on which a dam has been lawfully erected to remove it. This clause and clause 146 provide for compensation to be paid to the owner of the

land and the occupier of the land for the loss of any water held by the dam.

Clause 16: Restrictions in case of inadequate supply or overuse of water

This clause enables the Minister to prohibit or restrict the use of water if the available water cannot meet the demand.

Clause 17: Duty not to damage watercourse or lake

This clause places an obligation on the owner and occupier of land to take reasonable steps to prevent damage to a watercourse or lake on or adjoining the land.

DIVISION 2—PERMITS

Clause 18: Permits

This clause provides for the granting of permits. The granting of a permit must not be inconsistent with a water plan—see subclause (3).

Clause 19: Requirement for notice of certain applications

This clause requires public notice of applications for permits if the relevant water plan provides for such notice. The clause allows interested persons to make representations to the relevant authority before a decision is made on the application.

Clause 20: Refusal of permit to drill well

This clause enables an authority to refuse a permit to drill a well on the ground that the water is so contaminated as to create a risk to health.

Clause 21: Availability of copies of permits, etc.

This clause requires the relevant authority to make copies of permits and representations under clause 19 publicly available.

DIVISION 3—PROVISIONS RELATING TO WELLS

Clause 22: Well driller's licences

This clause provides for the granting of well driller's licences.

Clause 23: The Water Well Drilling Committee

This clause continues the Water Well Drilling Committee in existence and sets out its functions and provides for its powers.

Clause 24: Renewal of licence

This clause provides for renewal of well driller's licences.

Clause 25: Non-application of certain provisions

This clause enables wells of a class prescribed by proclamation to be excluded from provisions of Part 4.

Clause 26: Defences

This clause provides a series of defences relating to the drilling, plugging, backfilling, etc., of a well.

Clause 27: Obligation to maintain well

This clause imposes an obligation to maintain wells.

Clause 28: Requirement for remedial work

This clause enables the Minister to direct action to be taken to prevent the degradation or wastage of the water in a well.

PART 5

LICENSING AND ALLOCATION OF WATER

DIVISION 1—LICENSING

Clause 29: Licences

This clause provides for the granting of a water licence. Subclause (3) sets out the grounds on which the Minister can refuse to grant a licence. A licence is a vehicle for the water allocation and any conditions that are necessary or desirable in relation to the taking of water by the licensee.

Clause 30: Variation of water licences

This clause provides for the variation of licences.

Clause 31: Surrender of licence

Clause 31 enables a licensee to surrender his or her licence.

Clause 32: Availability of copies of licences, etc.

Provides for the public availability of copies of licences.

DIVISION 2—ALLOCATION OF WATER

Clause 33: Method of fixing water allocation

Sets out the bases on which water allocations can be fixed.

Clause 34: Allocation of water

Provides for the allocation of water. Where water in addition to that already allocated is available from a resource a water allocation may be obtained from the Minister. Otherwise a water allocation must be purchased from another licensee. Allocation by the Minister must, in the first instance, be by public auction or tender. The allocation of water may be subject to conditions and the total allocation at any one time to a licence may comprise a number of components subject to different conditions or having a limited or unlimited term.

Clause 35: Basis of decisions as to allocation

Sets out the basis of the Minister's decision to allocate water.

Clause 36: Allocation on declaration of water resource

Provides for the allocation of water on the declaration of a water resource. The main purpose of the section is to preserve the rights to water of existing users.

Clause 37: Reduction of water allocations

Provides for circumstances in which the Minister can reduce water allocations.

DIVISION 3—TRANSFER OF LICENCES AND WATER ALLOCATIONS

Clause 38: Transfer

Provides for the transfer of licences and for the transfer of part of the water allocation of a licence separately from the licence.

Clause 39: Application for transfer of licence or allocation

Provides for applications for the transfer of a licence or part of the allocation of a licence. Transfer of part of the allocation of a licence to another licence is achieved by the variation of both licences.

Clause 40: Requirement for notice of application for certain transfers

Requires public notice of an application for transfer of a licence or the water allocation of a licence if the relevant water allocation plan provides for public notice. Any person who desires to do so may make representations in writing to the Minister before the application is granted.

Clause 41: Basis of decision as to transfer

Sets out the basis for a decision to grant approval for the transfer of a licence or the water allocation of a licence.

Clause 42: Endorsement and record of dealings

Provides for endorsements on the licence.

DIVISION 4—BREACH OF LICENCE

Clause 43: Consequences of breach of licence, etc.

Makes it an offence to contravene or fail to comply with a condition of a licence and provides that the Minister may cancel, suspend or vary a licence in certain circumstances.

Clause 44: Effect of cancellation of licence on water allocation

Provides that the water allocation endorsed on a licence that has been cancelled is forfeited to the Minister. The Minister must endeavour to sell the allocation and subclause (5) provides for distribution of the proceeds of sale.

PART 6

ADMINISTRATION

DIVISION 1—THE MINISTER

Clause 45: Functions of the Minister

Sets out the functions of the Minister under the Bill.

Clause 46: Minister must report to Parliament

Provides for an annual report by the Minister to Parliament.

Clause 47: Minister to keep register of licences and permits

Requires the Minister to keep a register of water licences and permits.

Clause 48: Minister may delegate

Enables the Minister to delegate his or her functions, powers or duties under the Bill.

DIVISION 2—THE WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

Clause 49: Establishment of the council

Establishes the Water Resources Council.

Clause 50: Membership of the council

Provides for the membership of the council.

Clause 51: Functions of the council

Sets out the functions of the council.

Clause 52: Further provisions relating to the council

Refers to schedule 2 which contains further provisions relating to the council.

DIVISION 3—CATCHMENT WATER MANAGEMENT BOARDS

Clause 53: Establishment of boards

Provides for the establishment of catchment water management boards by the Governor on the recommendation of the Minister.

Clause 54: Recommendation by the Minister

Sets out the procedures that are required before the Minister makes a recommendation.

Clause 55: Nature of boards

Determines the nature of boards.

Clause 56: Common seal and execution of documents

Provides for the common seal of a board and the execution of documents.

Clause 57: Membership of boards

Clause 58: Presiding member

Clause 59: Other members

Clauses 57, 58 and 59 are provisions relating to the membership of boards.

Clause 60: Further provisions relating to boards

Refers to schedule 2 which contains further provisions relating to boards.

Clause 61: Functions of board

Sets out the functions of boards.

Clause 62: Board's responsibility for infrastructure

Clause 62 makes boards responsible for the maintenance and repair of infrastructure.

Clause 63: Powers of boards

Clause 63 sets out the powers of boards.

Clause 64: Board's power to provide financial assistance

Clause 64 enables boards to provide financial assistance to constituent councils and other persons.

Clause 65: Other activities of board

Regulates other activities of a board.

Clause 66: Delegation

Enables boards to delegate their functions, power and duties.

Clause 67: Entry and occupation of land

Sets out the powers of a board to enter and occupy land.

Clause 68: By-laws

Enables a board to make by-laws that can be made by a council in relation to water resources or infrastructure.

Clause 69: Representations by South Australian Water Corporation

Provides for South Australian Water Corporation to make representations to a board if the Corporation discharges water into a watercourse or lake in the board's area.

Clause 70: Staff of board

Provides for employees to be appointed by boards.

Clause 71: Exclusion of functions and powers of councils, etc.

Provides that where functions and powers of boards and councils or controlling authorities overlap, the functions and powers of boards take precedence.

Clause 72: Water recovery and other rights subject to board's functions and powers

Clause 72 makes certain rights subject to the performance of functions and exercise of powers by a board.

Clause 73: Vesting of works, buildings, etc., in board

Enables the Governor, on the recommendation of the Minister, to vest council infrastructure or land in a board.

Clause 74: Accounts and audit

Clause 74 provides for the auditing of the accounts of a board.

Clause 75: Annual reports

Provides for the preparation of an annual report by boards.

Clause 76: Appointment

Provides for the appointment of an administrator to reorganise the management and operations of a board in the circumstances set out in subclause (2).

Clause 77: Appointment of body established by or under another Act

Enables the Governor on the recommendation of the Minister to appoint a body (such as a soil board) established under another Act to act as a catchment water management board under this Act.

Clause 78: Recommendation by the Minister

This clause provides that clause 54 applies to the appointment of a body under Subdivision 8.

*Clause 79: Application of other Subdivisions**Clause 80: Conflict of functions or duties*

Clauses 79 and 80 are machinery provisions,

DIVISION 4—WATER RESOURCES PLANNING COMMITTEES

Clause 81: Establishment of water resources planning committees

Provides for the establishment of water resource planning committees.

Clause 82: Nature of committees

Sets out the nature of committees.

Clause 83: Membership of committees

Provides for the membership of committees.

Clause 84: Functions and powers of committees

Sets out functions and powers of committee.

Clause 85: Further provisions relating to committees

Schedule 2 sets out further provisions in relation to committees.

DIVISION 5—COUNCILS AND CONTROLLING AUTHORITIES

Clause 86: Responsibility of councils and controlling authorities

Sets out the responsibilities of councils and controlling authorities.

DIVISION 6—AUTHORISED OFFICERS

Clause 87: Appointment of authorised officers

Provides for the appointment of authorised officers.

Clause 88: Powers of authorised officers

Sets out the powers of authorised officers.

Clause 89: Hindering, etc., persons engaged in the administration of this Act

Makes it an offence to hinder or obstruct an authorised officer.

PART 7

WATER PLANS

DIVISION 1—STATE WATER PLAN

Clause 90: The State Water Plan

Provides for the State Water Plan.

Clause 91: Amendment of the State Water Plan

Requires the Minister to keep the State Water Plan under review and to amend it or replace it whenever necessary.

DIVISION 2—CATCHMENT WATER MANAGEMENT PLANS

Clause 92: Catchment water management plans

Sets out the required content of catchment water management plans.

Clause 93: Proposal statement

Requires the preparation of a proposal statement before a plan is prepared. Members of the public must be invited to make submissions in relation to the proposal statement.

Clause 94: Preparation of plans and consultation

Provides for preparation of the draft plan and for public and other consultation during preparation and on the draft plan after it is prepared.

Clause 95: Adoption of plan by Minister

Provides for adoption of the plan by the Minister and for consultation before adoption.

Clause 96: Amendment of a Development Plan

Provides for amendment of a Development Plan where a report setting out proposals for the amendment is included in the plan.

Clause 97: Review and amendment of plans

Provides for periodic review and amendment of plans.

Clause 98: Time for preparation and review of plans

Allows for the first plan to be of limited scope. This provision is necessary because of the long time required to prepare a comprehensive plan.

Clause 99: Time for implementation of plans

Allows for the implementation of a draft plan that has not been adopted if the Minister and the constituent council agree to implementation of the plan.

Clause 100: Availability of copies of plans

Provides for the public availability of copies of plans and submissions.

DIVISION 3—WATER ALLOCATION PLANS

Clause 101: Preparation of water allocation plans

Provides for preparation of water allocation plans.

*Clause 102: Proposal statement**Clause 103: Preparation of plans and consultation**Clause 104: Adoption of plan by Minister**Clause 105: Amendment of a Development Plan*

These clauses correspond to clauses 93 to 96 inclusive.

Clause 106: Amendment of allocation plans

Provides for the amendment of plans.

Clause 107: Availability of copies of plans

Provides for availability of copies of plans.

DIVISION 4—COUNCILS WATER MANAGEMENT PLANS

Clause 108: Local water management plans

Provides that a council may prepare a local water management plan.

*Clause 109: Proposal statement**Clause 110: Preparation of plans and consultation**Clause 111: Adoption of plan by Minister**Clause 112: Amendment of a Development Plan*

These clauses correspond to clauses 93, 94, 95 and 96 respectively.

Clause 113: Amendment of plan

Provides for the amendment of plans.

Clause 114: Preparation of plan, etc., by controlling authority

Enables a council to establish a controlling authority under the *Local Government Act 1934* to prepare a local water management plan on its behalf.

Clause 115: Availability of copies of plans

Provides for public availability of plans and submissions.

DIVISION 5—GENERAL

Clause 116: Consent of the Minister administering the Waterworks Act 1932

Provides that the Minister must not adopt a plan under Part 7 that affects the quality or quantity of water flowing into the waterworks without the consent of the Minister administering the *Waterworks Act 1932* or the consent of the Governor.

Clause 117: Validity of plans

Provides for validity of plans.

Clause 118: Amendment of plans without formal procedures

Enables straightforward amendments to be made without formal procedures.

Clause 119: Water plans may confer discretionary powers
Enables plans to confer discretionary powers. This provision is common in regulation making powers.

PART 8

FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

DIVISION 1—LEVIES IN RELATION TO TAKING WATER

Clause 120: Interpretation

Defines terms used in Part 8 Division 1.

Clause 121: Report as to quality of water in watercourse, etc.
Clause 121 provides for the Minister to prepare a report relating to the management of water in a proclaimed water resource and the estimated cost of implementing management proposals.

Clause 122: Declaration of levies by the Minister
Enables the Minister to declare levies.

Clause 123: Special purpose levy
Provides for the declaration of a special purpose levy.

Clause 124: Liability for levy
Sets out provisions relating to liability for levies.

Clause 125: Notice to person liable for levy
Provides for the service of a notice of the amount payable by way of the levy.

Clause 126: Determination of quantity of water taken
Sets out provisions as to the determination of the quantity of water taken for the purposes of determining the amount payable by way of levy.

Clause 127: Interest
Provides for the payment of interest on unpaid levies.

Clause 128: Cancellation of licence for non-payment of levy
Provides for cancellation of a licence if a levy is not paid.

Clause 129: Levy first charge on land
Provides that an unpaid levy is a first charge on land.

Clause 130: Sale of land for non-payment of a levy
Enables the Minister to sell land if a levy is not paid.

Clause 131: Discounting levies
Provides for discounting levies to encourage early payment.

Clause 132: Declaration of penalty in relation to the unauthorised taking of water
Provides for the declaration of a penalty in relation to the unauthorised taking of water. The other provisions of the Division will apply to the penalty as though it were a levy.

Clause 133: Appropriation of levies and interest
Provides for the application of levies and other money paid under the Division.

Clause 134: Accounts and audit
Provides for the auditing of the Water Resources Levy Fund.

DIVISION 2—CONTRIBUTIONS BY COUNCILS TO BOARDS

Clause 135: Contributions
Requires councils to contribute to the costs of a catchment water management board in their areas and provides for the shares in which the councils will pay that contribution.

Clause 136: Reduction of council's share
Provides for the reduction of a council's share by rebates, remissions and exemptions.

Clause 137: Payment of contributions
Sets out the time for payment by a council of its share.

Clause 138: Imposition of levy by constituent councils
Enables a council to impose a levy on ratepayers to recover the amount of the share paid by the council.

Clause 139: Administrative costs of councils
Provides that the board must pay the administrative costs of councils in complying with the requirements of Division 2.

DIVISION 3—REFUND OF LEVY OR RATES

Clause 140: Refund
Provides for the payment of a refund of a levy to a person who has implemented water usage or land management practices that are designed to conserve water or to maintain or improve its quality.

PART 9

CIVIL REMEDIES

Clause 141: Civil remedies
Provides civil remedies.

PART 10 APPEALS

Clause 142: Right of appeal
Sets out rights of appeal.

Clause 143: Decision or direction may be suspended pending appeal

Provides for the suspension of a decision that is subject to a right of appeal.

PART 11

MISCELLANEOUS

Clause 144: Constitution of Environment, Resources and Development Court

Sets out the constitution of the Environment, Resources and Development Court when exercising jurisdiction under the Bill.

Clause 145: False or misleading information
Makes it an offence to provide false or misleading information.

Clause 146: Compensation
Provides for the payment of compensation.

Clause 147: Immunity from liability
Provides for immunity from liability of members, employees and delegates of authorities under the Bill and immunity from liability of authorised officers.

Clause 148: Determination of costs and expenses
Makes it clear that the costs of an authority under the Act that are to be paid by a person who has failed to comply with a notice are the full costs that would be charged by an independent contractor.

Clause 149: Interference with works or other property
Sets out offences relating to interference with infrastructure, works and other property.

Clause 150: Vicarious liability

Clause 151: Offences by bodies corporate

Clause 152: Evidentiary

Clause 153: General defence

These clauses are standard clauses.

Clause 154: Proceedings for offences

Provides for the commencement of proceedings for offences.

Clause 155: Money due to Minister, etc., first charge on land
Makes money due to the Minister or another authority under this Act a first charge on land.

Clause 156: Exemption from Act
Enables the Governor by regulation to provide exemptions to the Bill.

Clause 157: Service of notices
Provides for service of notices.

Clause 158: Regulations
Sets out regulation making powers.

Schedule 1 sets out classes of wells which are exempt from the requirement for a permit.

Schedule 2 sets out common provisions in relation to the Water Resources Council, boards and committees.

Schedule 3 sets out transitional provisions.

The Hon. R.R. ROBERTS secured the adjournment of the debate.