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MEDIA RELEASE

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WATERWORKS ACT AMENDMENTS WILL ENSURE SENSIBLE RESTRICTIONS

In a key move to ensure a sensible water policy, Independent MLC Ann Bressington today introduced a Bill to amend the *Waterworks Act 1932*.

The Bill seeks to establish a Stakeholders Advisory Committee to advise the Minister for Water Security on matters of efficacy, social and environmental impact once the Corporation has made recommendations to the Minister for restrictions in the future.

The Committee would be comprised of seven members appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Minister for Water Security. Members would have practical knowledge of, and experience in, areas such as water management, environment protection, water conservation, the plant nursery and garden industry, water storage and supply, community affairs and industry.

Ms Bressington said the *Waterworks (Making of Restrictions) Amendment Bill 2007* sought to prevent a repeat of the farcical restrictions that had provoked outrage across the state earlier this month.

“Recent restrictions requiring South Australians to water their gardens with a bucket caused such public dissent that 15,000 people were prepared to hold a rally against the government,” Ms Bressington said.

“Under this Bill, a report will be handed to both houses when restrictions are being flagged to ensure we do not have another incident like the “bucket rule” in the future. The Bill requires that certain specialist individuals will be required to meet and evaluate the recommendations of the Corporation and the impacts, both positive and negative, that would be likely to occur if implemented.”

Ms Bressington said that South Australians were very much aware of the water shortage and the disastrous consequences that are likely to eventuate if proactive measures were not immediately undertaken.

“Enough is enough. It is no longer acceptable that such decisions are left solely to an autocratic body seemingly insensitive to the negative effects its decisions have on the lives of South Australians.”