

THE STATES assembled on Thursday,  
17th August, 1989 at 12 noon under  
the Presidency of the Bailiff,  
Sir Peter Crill, C.B.E.

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All Members were present with the exception  
of -

Senator Betty Brooke - ill.  
Snowdon George Robins, Connétable of  
St. Saviour - absent.  
Robin Ernest Richard Rumboll, Deputy  
of St. Helier - out of the Island.  
Cynthia Miriam Rumboll, Deputy of St.  
Helier - out of the Island.

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Prayers

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Declaration of State of Emergency.

The Bailiff informed the House  
that the Lieutenant-Governor had issued the  
following Declaration -

``DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS the Emergency Powers (Jersey)  
Law, 1964, enacts that if it appears to the  
Lieutenant-Governor that there have  
occurred, or are about to occur, events of  
such a nature as to be calculated, by  
interfering with either the supply and  
distribution of food, water, fuel or light,  
or with the means of locomotion, to deprive  
the Community or any substantial proportion  
of the Community, of the essentials of  
life, the Lieutenant-Governor may declare  
that a state of emergency exists;

AND WHEREAS it appears to me that the  
present water shortage has created an  
emergency within the meaning of the said  
Law;

NOW therefore, in pursuance of the said Law, I hereby declare a state of emergency exists.

Dated this fifteenth day of August, one thousand nine hundred and eighty-nine.

W.T. PILLAR

Lieutenant-Governor of Jersey"

Subordinate legislation tabled.

The following enactment was laid before the States, namely -

Emergency Powers (Control of Water)  
(Jersey) Order, 1989.

State of Emergency - water rationing. Statement.

The President of the Public Works Committee made a statement in the following terms -

“Last week the Jersey New Waterworks Company informed you, Sir, and the Public Works Committee that the usable water left in the Company's reservoirs had fallen to 150 million gallons and that the loss of water from store continued at the rate of 10 million gallons per week.

This situation arose largely because of the reduction of the quantity of water reaching the Company's reservoirs from the streams within the catchment area, and notwithstanding the continuing fall in daily consumption of water supplied by the Company to an average of 3.7 million gallons per day. In general, about half the yield of these streams reached the reservoirs but, on occasions, significantly less than half did so, the balance being abstracted by land owners principally for the irrigation of farm land and crops.

It was the opinion of the Company that, unless significant rain fell over the weekend or the forecast held out the prospect of wet weather in the

immediate future, the time would have arrived for more stringent measures to be taken to limit both consumption and abstraction of water if the Island's supply of water was to be safeguarded.

In the event an average of less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch of rain fell over the weekend and the forecast is for a return of high pressure and hot dry weather. Accordingly, Sir, you were advised on Monday of the need to request His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor to declare a State of Emergency as the only means by which statutory controls could be introduced. The objective of these controls will be to reduce the loss of water in store to approximately 4 million gallons per week.

His Excellency signed a Declaration at 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, which enabled the Defence Committee to make the Order which was tabled in the House this morning. This Order has enabled the Public Works Committee to impose statutory restrictions on both consumption and abstraction.

The Order and the restrictions have already been published in the press. I would remind the House that all consumers are prohibited from using Company water for certain purposes but domestic consumers are otherwise only restricted in as much as it is their public responsibility to be economical in the use of water.

Commercial consumers in three categories are required to reduce their consumption by 10, 20 and 30 per cent respectively.

The control of abstraction of water is more difficult to impose. In 1976 the only statutory control was to ban the use of private supplies for use in automatic car washing apparatus. A very successful attempt was made by negotiation to limit abstractions by land owners of water that was within the catchment areas to the reservoirs to that quantity required for strictly essential purposes.

Since 1976 there has been a proliferation in the number of bore holes providing water for domestic,

commercial and farm use and their unrestricted use will have an inevitable effect on underground water resources and the strength of springs feeding streams within the Island. The use of overhead and trickle irrigation has expanded a great deal during the past thirteen years.

It is for this reason and in order to improve the intake of water into the Company's reservoirs that a ban on irrigation except between the hours of 11.00 p.m. and 3.00 a.m. has been imposed. The hours have been chosen to ensure the maximum benefit from the water that is used and to avoid the excessively wasteful application of water to hot land by overhead sprinklers during the heat of the day. The hours chosen should also serve to discourage the use of irrigation systems for anything other than the most essential purposes.

It is accepted that irrigation between these hours might produce some nuisance from the noise emitted by the equipment employed, but for the reasons I have just explained and in order to accommodate those who derive their living from the land, the Committee expects neighbours to be understanding.

I am sure the House will understand that all the Committee can do in the present circumstances is to appeal to all those with their own water supplies, and particularly those with supplies derived from bore holes, to voluntarily exercise the same economy in the use of water as though their supplies were derived entirely from the Company. The problems which would arise from an acute shortage of water would affect everyone equally, and it is very much hoped that those with resources of their own will appreciate their obligation to economise to the same extent as those on whom restrictions are placed.

Article 8 of the Order gives the Committee discretion to grant exemptions or modifications to the restrictions which are imposed. Appeals against restrictions are to be made in the first instance to the

Jersey New Waterworks Company on the appropriate form and only if they remain unresolved by the Company will they be adjudicated upon by the Committee. A member of the Public Works Committee will act as the Chairman of the Appeals Panel with not less than two further members drawn from the Public Health, Agriculture and Fisheries or Tourism Committees.

The administration of the restrictions will be undertaken from an office in this building, (telephone 77111 extension 170 or 171) and Lieutenant Colonel W. Clayden, Emergency Planning Officer, has undertaken the supervision of this office and to act as Secretary to the Panel.

I am indebted to the Defence, Agriculture and Fisheries and Tourism Committees for their advice and co-operation in all that has taken place in advance of a State of Emergency being declared.

In conclusion, Sir, I would like to express the Committee's thanks to all those who have contributed to reducing the inevitable problems caused by the abnormally low rainfall in the last 3½ months, amounting to 2.11 inches compared to the 124 year average of 6.86 inches. In particular, we thank those customers who have voluntarily reduced consumption, and the staff of the Waterworks Company who are shouldering a greatly increased workload, especially those operating the desalination plant, which has been operating every day since June 10th and which has now produced 83 million gallons of water, without which we would be in a very much more serious situation."

THE STATES rose at 12.15 p.m.

E.J.M. POTTER

Greffier of the States.