

Media Release

Andrew Broad

Member for Mallee

Tuesday 15 August 2017

BROAD CALLS TO UP THE POLICING AND REMOVE SPECULATORS – WE NEED TO HAVE A VISION FOR THE NATIONS WATER

Federal Member for Mallee Andrew Broad has spoken in Canberra on the Murray Darling Basin Plan, pushing for commitment to a healthy river system and security for irrigators.

Following the ABC's Four Corners report Mr Broad said he had many Wimmera Mallee locals concerned about the current state of the Murray River under the basin plan, its metering system and policing of those doing the wrong thing and he highlighted that there had been too much politics around water.

"The danger is that it takes away the confidence for people to invest. If people don't have the confidence to invest, we don't get the water efficiency measures that we should have as a country," he said.

"The challenges around water require the people in the parliament to have a little bit more vision."

Mr Broad said the first challenge is to establish how to effectively use the 1,200 gigalitres of water held by the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder.

"Before we have a debate about getting more water, let's discuss how we best use the environmental water the commonwealth owns," Mr Broad said.

In response to the Four Corners story Mr Broad stood clear on the need for integrity in the river system.

"If we're going to have a Murray-Darling Basin Plan, we need to have reliability in the metering. We need to have trust in that, and we need to have policing for those who break the rules," Mr Broad said.

He backed the Government's move to allow policing to be done by New South Wales stating not only are their laws stringent but they also have a responsibility to report back to all State and Federal Governments, who will ensure integrity in the investigation.

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Mr Broad also spoke about the removal of speculators from the water market,

“If you are going to purchase water under the temporary sales and hold water, you need to nominate an extraction point. This is a reform that needs to take place, because the first view of the National Water Initiative was for water to flow from one legitimate user to another legitimate user, not for speculators to extract a profit at the expense of irrigators.” he said.

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