



MEDIA RELEASE

HON ROBERT BROKENSHERE MLC

FAMILY FIRST
The Independent Party



FAMILY FIRST LAMENTS ALP PUTTING THEIR “FAMILY” BEFORE GROWERS

Friday 31 October 2008

FAMILY FIRST MLC Robert Brokenshere has lamented that a great opportunity for the guaranteed survival of permanent plantings was rolled last night in State Parliament by a Government full of excuses.

“This bill is not as good a deal as it could have been - and should have been”, Mr Brokenshere said, “What does South Australia really get out of this agreement that it did not have already? We already had the 1,850 GL allocation, and we’re not getting that over the border anyway!”

“I am talking in real terms, did we get the same sort of result as Premier Brumby’s \$1bn and other vital concessions for Victoria? The answer is No.”

“Now we have handed absolute control to the Commonwealth and we have no guaranteed protection for permanent plantings. We have the Minister talking a lot about the ‘viability’ of permanent plantings, about the Government needing ‘flexibility’ and Development Minister Holloway talking about an industry with sectors ‘out of vogue’ and saying that other industry stood higher in the hierarchy than irrigators and deserved an higher priority allocation out of ‘critical human needs’”

“I am glad we had the debate nonetheless, because we flushed out through the Ministers’ contributions that this Government does not care about family farms, it cares more about keeping the ALP family together”

“The Government dodged questions time and again on what the Labor Premiers and the Prime Minister meant by *critical human needs*, because what was said in the big happy ALP family stays in the family. There is a total lack of transparency for irrigators here, and this debate must continue”

“Most non-Government MPs agreed this Handover package was inadequate, with interstate tributaries excluded, diversions going on upstream and the other states winning. Yet the Minister said, during the debate, that the Government ‘*did not want to open the door for renegotiation*’. That’s the talk of a Government that thinks its lucky to get away with what it did, not a Government that stood up strong and got a good deal”

Key quotes from the debate are attached. Full Hansard of the debate: [click here](#).