



MEDIA RELEASE

HON ROBERT BROKENSHERE MLC

FAMILY FIRST
The Independent Party



PERMANENT PLANTINGS ARE “CRITICAL HUMAN NEEDS” FAMILY FIRST MOVE ON FEDERAL MURRAY HANDOVER PACKAGE

Monday October 27th, 2008

FAMILY FIRST MLC Robert Brokenshere has announced today during his visit to the Riverland that his Party will move to amend the River Murray handover package introduced in South Australia's Parliament to ensure that the phrase 'critical human needs' includes ensuring the survival of permanent plantings.

“The survival of permanent plantings – fruit trees, vines etc – is absolutely critical for the survival of River communities”, Mr Brokenshere said, “If they are allowed to die, there will be massive social impact not only in South Australia's river regions, but all through the basin”

“This phrase *critical human needs* rolls off of Minister Wong's tongue as if everyone should know what it means. First and foremost nobody doubts it means water for drinking and sanitation in households. However what else does it include? The bill defines it as *non-human consumption requirements that a failure to meet would cause prohibitively high social, economic or national security costs*. To my reading that's very broad, and leaves a lot of room for things other than permanent plantings. Permanent plantings must be the next priority after human consumption.”

“FAMILY FIRST's amendment is not about ensuring people can take a crop, its about keeping permanent plantings alive.”

Mr Brokenshere reiterated his Party's long-standing support of a Federal handover, saying the man he replaced, the Hon Andrew Evans MLC, called for a handover in his maiden speech to Parliament as FAMILY FIRST's first ever elected representative in any Australian Parliament, in 2002.

“It's a national disgrace its taken this long, and we support the federalisation of handling of the Murray. We also have to ensure, when we do so, we get the absolutely best deal for South Australia, which we say must include a guarantee that there will be water prioritised for the survival of permanent plantings”

Mr Brokenshere will move his amendment to the package tomorrow (Tuesday).