



MEDIA RELEASE

HON ROBERT BROKENSHERE MLC

FAMILY FIRST
The Independent Party



FAMILY FIRST HERE TO WELCOME RIVERLAND COALITION

5 November 2008

FAMILY FIRST MLC Robert Brokenshere has applauded the launch today of the Riverland Coalition at the Berri Town Hall. He has made the trip from Adelaide for the meeting to lend FAMILY FIRST's support to the concept.

"Its wonderful to see the Riverland uniting in this way", Mr Brokenshere said, "Country regions can tend to be parochial and try to get the best deal for themselves, but in the face of this crisis it's a powerful statement to the Government and all politicians that this is a region that will not take neglect lying down"

"Unity is powerful, look at the fragmented soccer community of years ago in this State and now, through Adelaide United, tonight they play in the Asian Champions' League final!"

Mr Brokenshere – a dairy farmer who recently went through a restructure in that industry - indicated that he will be seeking opportunity at the meeting, and after the formation of the Coalition, to work on strategies that go beyond exit packages to restructure and support for permanent plantings, fresh on the back of his battle with the Government last week in Parliament to try and define permanent plantings as *critical human needs*.

"The permanent plantings debate showed us clearly that the Government's priority is for metropolitan-based industry with no water restrictions, not irrigators on a small percentage of their allocations", Mr Brokenshere added.

"I've got the experience and connections on the question of restructure, and I believe it is absolutely what this region needs right now"

"I endorse the work of the Riverland Coalition and I am keen to work shoulder-to-shoulder with them and State Parliamentary colleagues, Nick Xenophon and Patrick Secker to ensure proper support for the Riverland's sustainable future"

FAMILY FIRST's work in support of the Murray and irrigators can be reviewed at:
http://www.sa.familyfirst.org.au/index_files/05environment.htm

Riverland Community members are invited to provide their feedback and advice to Robert on 0419 815 990 or via his office on 8237 9122.