



MEDIA RELEASE

HON ROBERT BROKENSHERE MLC

FAMILY FIRST
The Independent Party



FAMILY FIRST SCEPTICAL ON CHELTENHAM SAVINGS POTENTIAL

5 February 2009

FAMILY FIRST MLC Robert Brokenshere has today questioned the science on the Cheltenham Stormwater Harvesting project announced today by the Rann Government, saying the Government in question time in the Legislative Council hadn't explained exactly how they had achieved a sixfold increase in the originally projected harvesting capacity.

"I ask the Government to show us the engineering", Mr Brokenshere said, "How will you harvest 6 times as much water, without additional surface area for filtering quality of water? You will need considerably more retention ponding for water to settle, filter out heavy metals and other pollutants and then be injected into the aquifer"

"Where are the 900 hectares of additional catchment area that Minister Holloway described in the Legislative Council today? The Government is not clear in describing where the additional wetland area and catchment areas are".

"Are we turning a creek into another row of concrete slabs like Sturt Creek? The Minister told Parliament that new extended catchment area will go between Port Road and Torrens Road right up to the River Torrens, based on River Torrens overflows. So where is the science on how often overflow happens, what works will be required to facilitate that stormwater delivery, and where will those works occur?"

"I'm fed up with this ad-hoc approach to stormwater harvesting, where in this instance it was only opponents (ie of density development replacing the Cheltenham Racecourse) put pressure upon the Government, and they have only then responded"

"I call upon the Government to support Family First's three Bills to make it mandatory for all greenfield sites to have stormwater harvesting and retention and other mandatory stormwater harvesting requirements"

To illustrate the how the alleged 1.2 GL annual savings stack up to water use in SA, the two largest users of SA Water in 2007-8 used over 6 GL each, yet their efficiency savings and stormwater harvesting initiatives are not being made public.

"The alleged 1.2 GL of harvesting potential at Cheltenham is welcome – if the science is right – but what is this Government doing to ensure the big guzzlers of water are harvesting stormwater themselves?"