



MEDIA RELEASE

HON ROBERT BROKENSHERE MLC

FAMILY FIRST
The Independent Party



FAMILY FIRST SLAMS SPIN ON PIPE OPENING AT LOWER LAKES

Wednesday 18 February 2009

FAMILY FIRST MLC Robert Brokenshere has commended the local community around the Lower Lakes for its success in pushing for the pipeline (opened this morning) for urgent stock and domestic water supply.

“This and other initiatives will not get the Government off the hook when it comes to a fresh water solution for the Lakes – the Wellington Weir is nothing but a building block for permanent disconnection. Every piece of rock and other infrastructure installed in preparation for the Weir is a State Government move towards, after state election, building that Weir and putting salt water in permanently”

“Family First’s message to the Government is : don’t think you are off the hook with the opening of this pipeline today. We’re joining forces with the local community and other Members of Parliament to step up the pressure to find a freshwater solution for the Lower Lakes”

“The Ramsar-protected environmental benefits, plus the industries of agriculture, boating, tourism etc are far too important to let this Government build their Weir simply because this Government didn’t have fight in them to get fresh water allocations for the Lakes during debate on the River Murray handover to the Federal Government”

“I congratulate the Lower Lakes communities – this pipeline is paramount for the wellbeing of community, stock and domestic water supply. However, it lets the Government have an easier path to the Wellington Weir because the more they take people off Lower Lakes dependency, the easier they can build a weir”

“If this Government can find 24 gigalitres of water for Barmera’s Lake Bonney and wetlands along the Murray, why can’t they find freshwater for the Lower Lakes?”

Mr Brokenshere is available from 12:30pm at Parliament House today for interview.