



MEDIA RELEASE

HON ROBERT BROKENSHERE MLC

FAMILY FIRST
The Independent Party



4 INDUSTRIES ALONE GUZZLE 18GL WHILE LOWER LAKES, CROPS DIE

Tuesday 3 February 2009

FAMILY FIRST MLC Robert Brokenshere has revealed today that his research has discovered that the top 4 industrial users of SA Water water in 2007/8 took, between them, **18 gigalitres** – a significant proportion of which is yielded from the same River Murray that feeds the Lower Lakes and irrigators.

The top 20 users:

- ✳ took 26.4 Gigalitres *without restrictions*, which is the equivalent of 66,000 Olympic swimming pools unrestricted.
- ✳ paid \$35m for the water at \$1,319 / megalitre, and
- ✳ had they reduced consumption in the 07/08 period by the 30% reduction achieved by residential users in the same period, that reduced usage would have cost the Government \$11.6m in lost revenue.

“These industries and businesses had no water restrictions with legal force”, Mr Brokenshere added, “and the Government offered no water-saving incentives nor imposed any requirements to harvest their stormwater because its addicted to the SA Water revenue”

For the industrial users, all they had to come up with was a **PLAN**. A plan to save water, comprising a 4-page statement of intent lodged with SA Water. The Plans are not legally enforceable and one has to ask how much water industry has actually saved.

To put the top 4's 18 GL consumption into context:

- The 30% [reduction in Adelaide water consumption](#) last year (compared to 5 years ago in 03/04 saved 27GL of water;
- The [Port Stanvac desalination plant](#) is to provide 50GL per annum;
- SA Opposition estimates say stormwater harvesting [would capture 90GL pa](#)
- The Save the River Murray Levy at this time last year [had yielded](#) only 14GL of water for the Murray – said to be 37 days' supply for Adelaide

MEDIA RELEASE
Robert Brokenshire – FAMILY FIRST PARTY

“The Lower Lakes need about 20 GL to get through the summer, and here we have just 20 industrial, manufacturing and government users sucking that each year... and yet this Government has done nothing to encourage stormwater capture and re-use, aquifer storage and recovery, from the massive roofing space of some industries”

“My Bill would require – by law – that all new industrial allotments include stormwater capture to utilise the massive roof-space of these industries and ensure it doesn't all get washed out into Gulf of St Vincent” FAMILY FIRST's package of 3 Bills for stormwater harvesting are in the Legislative Council awaiting further debate.

FURTHER BACKGROUND

The top 20 SA Water users took, between them, **26.4 gigalitres**. According to SA Water, the types of user these users were, included:

- Heavy industry including mining, energy and manufacturing enterprises;
- Food / beverage processors and manufacturers; and
- Commonwealth / State / local government entities.

Whilst:

- home owners face criminal sanction or even ‘water rage’ from neighbours for watering outside category 3 restrictions; and
- irrigators are legally bound, at present, to use only 18% of their entitlement to irrigate;
- Industrial users just had to have a PLAN