



# MEDIA RELEASE

ROBERT BROKENSHERE

FAMILY FIRST WATER SPOKESPERSON



## MAYWALD ADMITS TODAY \$30m WEIR TO BEGIN - DOESN'T TELL 300- STRONG GOOLWA PUBLIC MEETING

Tuesday 5 August 2008

FAMILY FIRST MLC Robert Brokenshere has lamented at the Minister for Water Security's failure to tell Goolwa residents at their public meeting last night that work on the Wellington Weir was beginning.

"Why can't the Government tell residents at a public meeting that construction of Wellington Weir is starting?", Mr Brokenshere said, "This meeting was about people fighting for an environmental flow for the Lower Lakes and Coorong – and the Minister failed to tell the meeting that Cabinet has, in effect, signed off on a \$30m program to **stop** any flow to the Lower Lakes and Coorong"

"Why can't the Government come clean to the community?", Mr Brokenshere said, "People of the Lower Lakes are desperate for a flow into their dying lakes system"

Mr Brokenshere said he was disappointed that out of \$3bn previously set aside for buyback of water across the Basin, only \$130m was on the table. "If more money is not put on the table urgently for water buyback, as soon as allocations start to lift, cotton and rice growers upstream will begin new plantings and we will see a further demise of the Murray River in SA and the Lower Lakes"

"Minister Maywald's comments on 891 ABC radio this morning about 'nobody coming to us with a magic bucket of water' suggests that the State Government is not looking beyond its borders for water", Mr Brokenshere said, "Whether its water that we could potentially buy, or water being illegally held back in another State, this Government is not interested in that water – they are waiting for NSW and Victoria to come to them!"

"The Government must do more as a matter of urgency for the Lower Lakes system" Mr Brokenshere said.

The Hon Mr Brokenshere MLC and FAMILY FIRST candidate for Mayo Bob Day attended the Goolwa meeting last night.