



MEDIA RELEASE

HON ROBERT BROKENSHERE MLC

FAMILY FIRST
The Independent Party



RANN GOVERNMENT'S CONSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGE IS A DESPERATE MAKE-UP FOR HANDOVER FAILINGS

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FAMILY FIRST MLC Robert Brokenshere says he is **livid** about the Rann Government's belated announcement that it will mount a constitutional challenge to Victoria's water trading cap.

"I said last October at the time of the River Murray handover that it was flawed, and for that reason Family First was the only party that tried to amend that Bill. We challenged the Premier's claim that it was a 1-in-a-100 year achievement, and today's news of a constitutional challenge – and the Springborg musings in Qld that if elected he may renege on the Handover deal – shows what a shemozzle that handover was"

"The Government had the opportunity to fight for South Australia, and it failed miserably. Now it faces a very expensive and protracted constitutional challenge that will probably be resolved by the High Court long after the Lower Lakes are dead and irrigators have walked off the land *en masse*"

Mr Brokenshere cited his media releases of:

- 30 October 2008 attacking the Handover plan; and
- 15 February 2009 urging the Premier to press Premier Brumby to drop his Government's 4% water trading cap.

"Has the Premier been listening? Family First is a party with some comprehensive understanding of the water issues in this State and we can't be dismissed any more. Our food bowl is at risk, our water security is at risk and the Lower Lakes are in peril"

"The Government had its opportunity to fight for a strong legislative package and it has failed. Instead, now it is making up its position on the Murray as it goes along and has no plan or fight in it for South Australia"

"The Government blew it at COAG and now their polling is confirming that failure, they are desperate"