



MEDIA RELEASE

ROBERT BROKENSHERE

FAMILY FIRST WATER SECURITY
SPOKESPERSON



OPENING GOOLWA BARRAGES A DONE DEAL? ASK RUDD, RANN

Thursday 28 August 2008

FAMILY FIRST MLC Robert Brokenshere has called upon the Premier and Prime Minister to come clean on whether they have a secret plan to flood the Lower Lakes.

The Premier Mike Rann said on 891 ABC radio on Friday morning: *“What I’m doing is taking hard decisions. I mean ... if I have to allow seawater into the Lower Lakes because that’s the best advice for turning acid then I will do so.”*

“The Premier and Prime Minister need to be honest with the people of South Australia, and the voters of Mayo before September 6th on whether Labor plans to flood the Lower Lakes with sea water.”

“This is death by a thousand cuts to the Lower Lakes. The State and Federal Governments make announcements to make it look like they are doing something, but has there been a wink-wink, nod-nod agreement to flood the Lakes with seawater already?”

Mr Brokenshere noted that the State Labor Government was already committed to building a weir at Wellington with a considerable investment of \$30m in preliminary excavation works beginning soon. “Are they doing this to hold back water, or is it really to stop the seawater that they’ll let in to the Lakes from polluting weir pools for Adelaide’s water supply?”

Mr Brokenshere said solutions were coming forward almost daily, including Ray Najar’s plan to lower River weir pools between the locks by 100mm to produce up to 150GL in flow, with lesser evaporation losses than obtaining water from upstream storages. “Plans like this need consideration, and sound sensible on first glance.”

“FAMILY FIRST, like the rest, is fighting for an urgent flow for the Lower Lakes to give a 12 month grace period for a better plan for the Lower Lakes. Our leaders need to be crystal clear on whether they are going to flood the Lower Lakes anyway with seawater, no matter what others do in protest.”

MEDIA RELEASE
Robert Brokenshire – FAMILY FIRST PARTY

Relevant past Government media comments:

- Premier Rann – Ministerial Media Release concerning the Wellington Weir – *“it (the weir) would help reduce massive loss of water through evaporation and avoid Adelaide running low of fresh water”* – November 8th, 2006
- Minister Wong – The Australian – “Federal Minister Penny Wong yesterday said compulsory acquisitions of water above South Australia would not help the lakes, which are at record lows and ecologically threatened by increasingly acidic soil beds. *“There is not enough water in the system to bring down the sorts of quantities of water you’d need to fill the lower lakes and to handle the evaporation in the lakes and transmission loss – that is, what you’d lose along the way”* – August 7th, 2008
- Premier Rann – ABC Online – “Mr Rann says (buying private properties with large water allocations) would be a bad decision for short term gain – *“It would go past the Riverland irrigators who are on a two per cent allocation, they wouldn’t be able to use it, it’d go past the city of Adelaide and it would then evaporate in the lower lakes and only one fifth of the water would actually get there”* - Friday August 8th 2008