



MEDIA RELEASE

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MURRAY IRRIGATOR JIGSAW JUST STARTED, NOT FINISHED MIKE!

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FAMILY FIRST MLC Robert Brokenshere has condemned the Premier's claim in the weekend media that the Rudd Government's announcement of \$57 million in exit packages for Riverland irrigators is the "last piece in the jigsaw".

"State and Federal Labor just don't get what Murray irrigators need", Mr Brokenshere said, "Murray irrigators are the first part of the jigsaw in this state's economy, not the last. They saved the State after the State Bank disaster, and they deserve better than money to just walk off the land. I met with irrigators in the Riverland late last week and they want to stay if they can, not just walk away from their family farms."

"This package (of up to \$170 million for irrigators to walk off the land) is just part of the puzzle", Mr Brokenshere added, "A **full restructure** is what is required. I am a dairy farmer who came through the dairy industry restructure – that was a comprehensive approach to industry that covered:

1. funding those who want to stay in the industry to expand or reshape;
2. allowing those who want to exit to do so with dignity; and
3. helping allied businesses, such as processors, to build new export and other business opportunities."

"Where will South Australia's food come from? China? Chile? ", Mr Brokenshere posed, "Money to walk away will decimate our foodbowl. EC funding doesn't work in horticulture. We need a proper restructure due to drought, part of which is buyback of permanent water allocation at \$4,000 a megalitre, and the greater part is a comprehensive restructure – so remaining growers can grow their businesses and we can maintain a foodbowl along the Murray-Darling Basin."

Mr Brokenshere has committed himself to fight for a proper restructure package for Murray irrigators. "If this is a jigsaw, then I'm puzzled by the Government's simplistic offerings to irrigators."

"We need to accelerate the buyback at \$4,000 a megalitre and the Government needs to be looking properly at FAMILY FIRST's comprehensive restructure package."