



The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP

Minister for Primary Industries

Minister for Small Business

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW HEARS BASIN COMMUNITY CONCERNS LOUD AND CLEAR

Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson said today that concerns expressed by communities at the Murray-Darling Basin Plan meetings held in Griffith and Deniliquin have been heard loud and clear by the NSW Government.

Ms Hodgkinson said communities want to know why the Proposed Basin Plan has not explained the justification for 2,750 gigalitres to be returned to the environment and why it has not demonstrated how expected environmental outcomes will be achieved through changes to the way water is managed in the Basin.

“Most importantly, the Proposed Plan does not indicate how the Sustainable Diversion Limits (SDLs) have been established or from where and how the so-called ‘shared reduction’ water to meet unidentified environmental outcomes is to be recovered,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government understands that Basin residents have real concerns for the future of their communities and we continue to demand that the Basin Plan deliver a balance of environment, economic and social outcomes.

“The lack of clarity in the Proposed Plan is unacceptable and unjust.”

Ms Hodgkinson said that the NSW Government is already using the 20-week consultation period to meet with communities, industries, small businesses and stakeholders to ensure that a considered and comprehensive response to the Plan can be prepared.

“The NSW Government is committed to working with Basin communities to ensure that the Basin Plan benefits not only the environment, but also the communities and producers who rely on a healthy, sustainable, working Murray-Darling Basin.”

Ms Hodgkinson said she will be meeting with Basin communities in early February alongside local sitting Members of Parliament and Members of the Legislative Council to ensure the NSW position is water-tight and reflects the needs of our primary producers, irrigators, businesses and community groups.

“We look forward to working with Basin stakeholders and hearing firsthand how the NSW Government can best ensure the Murray-Darling Basin Authority develops a final Plan that meets the environmental, economic and social needs of the Murray-Darling Basin,” Ms Hodgkinson said.