



The Hon Andrew Stoner MP
Deputy Premier of NSW
Minister for Trade and Investment
Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services

The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP
Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Small Business

MEDIA RELEASE

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MURRAY-DARLING BASIN PLAN MUST DELIVER FOR NSW

Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner and Minister for Primary Industries Katrina Hodgkinson today called on the Murray-Darling Basin Authority to ensure its soon to be released draft Plan delivers for the people of NSW.

“Whether in Opposition or Government, the NSW Liberals & Nationals have made it clear that we will always back our Basin communities,” Mr Stoner said.

“Following the release of the ill-fated Guide last year, Basin communities have pleaded that the draft Plan must consider the social and economic impacts as well as environmental ones.

“The document released on Monday must take this triple bottom line approach.

“This draft Plan is the Commonwealth’s last chance to restore faith in the process and deliver on their promises to those who live and work in the Murray-Darling Basin.”

Ms Hodgkinson said the draft Plan must be based on best science, taking into account environmental needs and socio-economic impacts, while equitably apportioning the reductions in water availability for downstream environmental benefits between Basin States.

“I have said it before and I will say it again – we will not support a plan that is not in the best interest of NSW, our primary producers and Basin communities,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“The constant trickle of leaked information about the draft Plan is not appreciated by the NSW Government nor is it appreciated by the State’s farmers and rural communities.

“These communities have been holding their breath for the release of this plan since its first proposed release date 18 months ago.

“The MDBA has a lot of work to do to erase the memory of last year’s failed Guide and their lack of formal communication with NSW has done little to ease my mind or the minds of those directly impacted by the draft Plan.

“The future of our State’s farmers, Basin communities and water sustainability is dependent on getting this Plan right. I encourage all those with a vested interest in the future of the Basin to prepare for the formal 20-week consultation period, which will start after the draft Plan is released on Monday.

“I urge Mr Knowles to deliver on the commitments he has made to NSW to guarantee a safe, sustainable working future for Basin farmers, communities and the environment,” Ms Hodgkinson said.