

VOTE 1
MARK RODDA

YOUR INDEPENDENT VOICE for the Electorate of Tamworth

MARK
1
RODDA

*Passionate
Community
Representation*

NSW STATE ELECTION - 23 MARCH 2019

Authorised by Mark Rodda, 33 Kathleen Street, South Tamworth NSW 2340

MEDIA RELEASE

ROYAL COMMISSION INTO MURRAY DARLING BASIN AUTHORITY ACTION NOW FOR MURRAY DARLING BASIN

17 January 2018

Mark Rodda, Independent Candidate for the Electorate of Tamworth said today “While I support calls for a Royal Commission at Commonwealth level into the long-term cross-border management of the Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA), many of the answers to a proposed Royal Commission into the management of the MDBA are already known and it should not be used to delay immediate action now.”

“The Commonwealth could hold an expensive and time-consuming Royal Commission into the management of the MDBA but the major parties already know the outcomes, answers and recommendations that such a commission would make and would they have the desire to implement them”, Rodda said.

“The fact is a State Minister and Local MP can’t force the Commonwealth into convening a Royal Commission on this matter. It’s trendy to call for a Royal Commission for this or that matter but they are generally very time consuming processes and given the millions of tragic fish deaths occurring right now, a Commission would not save many of our fish stocks unless decisive action occurred now”, Rodda claimed.

“Many of the images of mass fish deaths are truly confronting and appalling. It’s quite obvious there are a number of reasons to the problem some such as mismanagement, over-allocation, drought, lack of oxygenated water, water theft and greed but the solution to many of those matters requires genuine political leadership across State jurisdictional borders by Commonwealth and State governments. The environment

can't wait for the findings of a Royal Commission, that will not happen anytime soon," Rodda added.

"Around the State we have a myriad of water sharing plans, one of these the Barwon-Darling Water Sharing Plan, made in 2012 from Mungindi to Wilcannia appears to have allowed irrigators to extract 32% more water even during low water flows and this needs a NSW inquiry now", Rodda said.

"Unless mainland States like Queensland, NSW, Victoria and South Australia and many large other corporate stakeholders work together for an enduring resolution nothing will change if nothing changes. Perhaps if water responsibilities were surrendered by each State to the Commonwealth, which is possibly constitutionally impossible but handled by one Government body that makes a decision for the benefit of the whole Australian system, it is likely that the mismanagement, over-allocations greed and inefficiencies will continue because we know what happens in one State can affect the next. We also know that the environment, fresh water fish and rural communities will be the losers and we don't need an expensive, grand standing and time-consuming Royal Commission to tell us that", Rodda concluded

ENDS

For further information please contact Mark Rodda on 0448 750 302.