



WATER MANAGEMENT POLICY



WHAT WE BELIEVE

Water is the lifeblood of regional NSW, and governments are choking it.

Water Security should be part of our National Security framework.

For years, Sydney and Canberra bureaucrats have been stripping productive water away from farmers through backroom policy changes, environmental rule changes and Basin Plan decisions imposed without consent, accountability or fair compensation.

Families who built farms, businesses and entire communities around secure water access are being sacrificed to satisfy political agendas, flawed modelling and activist-driven policy.

Governments are changing the rules after the fact, devaluing water licences, destroying farm productivity and wiping billions from regional economies without paying a cent in compensation.

That is not reform. It is economic confiscation by bureaucracy.

Farmers are not the enemy of the river system. They are the people who feed this country, keep regional towns alive and manage the land better than any city-based department ever will.

While governments waste billions on failed water buybacks, environmental mismanagement and endless bureaucracy, regional communities are left fighting for survival.

We reject the growing power of unelected water agencies using regulation to quietly take water away from productive agriculture while avoiding public scrutiny and parliamentary accountability. Water allocated to farming is not water wasted and hydrated agricultural land naturally drains back to



the environment.

Water policy must put farmers, food production and regional communities first.

We believe Australian water should grow Australian food, support Australian jobs and stay in the hands of the people who use it productively, not speculators, foreign investors, activist groups or governments trying to regulate regional NSW into decline.



OUR ACTION PLAN

Stop Governments Stealing Water from Farmers

- Legislate a Water Property Rights Protection Act to stop governments stripping water from farmers through policy changes, environmental rule changes or regulatory manipulation without full compensation and parliamentary scrutiny.
- Ban compulsory water buybacks from productive agriculture unless approved by Parliament following a full regional economic impact assessment.
- Introduce statutory compensation rights for irrigators and regional businesses financially damaged by government water recovery schemes, licence reductions or policy-driven access cuts.
- Legislate a “No Net Loss” regional protection rule preventing governments from removing productive water from farming communities without replacing the lost economic and social value.

Rip Power Away from Water Bureaucracies

- Dismantle the top-down bureaucratic control of water management by legislating local water management boards with binding decision-making powers in every major river valley.
- Mandate irrigator, farmer and regional representation on every major water advisory body, Basin authority and environmental water management panel.
- Force all water agencies to publicly release modelling, scientific advice, economic impact data and legal advice used to justify water restrictions and



OUR ACTION PLAN - Continued

environmental water decisions.

- Establish a permanent Independent Water Integrity Commission with powers to investigate corruption, maladministration, political interference and regulatory abuse inside NSW water agencies.

Crush Water Speculation and Market Manipulation

- Ban foreign-owned corporations, offshore investment funds and non-agricultural speculators from purchasing strategic water entitlements.
- Legislate “use-it-or-lose-it” rules preventing water traders and speculators hoarding water allocations while regional communities suffer.
- Launch a full forensic audit into interstate water trading, corporate water ownership and speculative water market practices driving up prices for family farmers.
- Introduce anti-monopoly protections preventing large corporate interests from cornering regional water markets and pricing family farms out of production.

Tear Apart the Failed Murray-Darling Basin Plan

- Demand a full Royal Commission into the Murray-Darling Basin Plan to expose corruption, flawed science, political interference and the economic destruction inflicted on regional NSW.
- Legislate an immediate moratorium on further water buybacks from productive agriculture until the full social, economic and environmental impacts of Basin policies are independently reviewed.



OUR ACTION PLAN

- Force the Federal Government to publicly justify every litre of productive water removed from regional communities under Basin recovery programs.
- Ban environmental water from being traded, manipulated or reallocated for political or commercial purposes.
- Mandate independent auditing of environmental water releases to expose waste, flooding damage, failed outcomes and environmental mismanagement.
- Review all current Basin recovery targets to ensure NSW farming communities are no longer sacrificed to satisfy unrealistic federal water recovery quotas.

Put Farmers first

- Legislate food production and regional community survival as primary objectives of NSW water management policy.
- Force governments to prioritise water for food production, livestock and regional towns ahead of non-essential environmental releases during drought and low-flow periods.
- Introduce pro-rata water charging reforms so irrigators only pay for water actually delivered instead of being charged full rates during allocation cuts.
- Protect irrigator water licences as legally enforceable property rights that cannot be quietly eroded by bureaucratic policy changes.
- Expand funding for on-farm water infrastructure, storage upgrades and efficiency projects that increase productivity without stripping water away



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from agriculture.

Build Real Water Security Infrastructure

- Fast-track the expansion and upgrade of dams, weirs, channels and regional water storage infrastructure to increase drought resilience and long-term water security.
- Accelerate the full restoration and modernisation of the Menindee Lakes system to strengthen water supply security for the Lower Darling and surrounding communities.
- Create a Regional Water Security Fund dedicated to practical infrastructure projects instead of wasting billions on bureaucracy, consultants and failed buyback schemes.
- Force governments to prioritise water infrastructure construction over ideological water reduction policies that punish productive agriculture.
- Expand investment in regional flood mitigation, water storage and drought-proofing projects to protect farming communities from future water insecurity.