

Call for temporary end to environmental flows

Country Alliance's candidate for the Northern Victoria Region has called on the Government to stop pumping water from the Murray River for environmental flows.

He said irrigation allocation cutbacks are spelling out disaster for irrigators and regional communities in the Murray Valley.

“The time has come to urgently decide the priorities for how the little remaining water in the storages is to be used, will the welfare of people come first, or will it be the welfare of plants and animals”, he said.

“If irrigators and the communities that rely on them miss out and are left bankrupt, when the drought breaks they will not be able to afford to start up again, they will be gone forever. If the flora and fauna are left to fend for themselves in the drought, they will regenerate and bloom again when it breaks, as they have done thousands of times before.”

“What is our priority for water use - environment, urban supply or food supply” he asked.

“The situation Victoria now finds itself in is a result of severe drought coupled with decades of inadequate Government investment to secure future water supply for Victoria.”

“This is an exceptional circumstance we are now in, exceptional responses are needed. Until the drought breaks, we must do all we can to protect the people who rely on the waters of the Murray Darling Basin for their very being, as a first priority above all else,” Mr. Lee said.

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