

Country Alliance questions “no dams” policy.

Country Alliance today called on the state Labor Government to put the construction of a new dam on the list of options to solve Victoria’s future water problems.

Party spokesperson, Russell Bate questioned the “no dams” policy being pursued by the government and asked whether it was a case of ideology before practicality.

“Why, when solutions to Melbourne’s water shortages as diverse as a desalination plant, a north south pipeline and now a pipeline from Tasmania are being canvassed, are we not seeing any serious consideration of a new dam?” he asked.

“None of the options under consideration is without serious drawbacks” he said. “In every case there is a community who will suffer to provide Melbournians with water. It is a classic illustration of the maxim that ‘there is no such thing as a free drink’”.

“With predictions that Victoria will experience more extreme weather conditions in future and the probability of increasing cycles of drought and flood, our capacity to catch and hold water will be critical to the sustainability of Melbourne and the state” he said.

“The Premier’s recent prediction that Melbourne’s population will exceed Sydney’s within two decades will be consigned to fantasy if the state’s water problems aren’t solved soon.” he added.

Mr Bate said that the solution to future water shortages was better management of the state’s water resources.

“If all options are going to be considered, it is difficult to believe that they will not include dams.”

For media comment contact Russell Bate

Website: www.countryalliance.org

Admin: admin@countryalliance.org / ph 0425 746 066