



Ken O'Dowd MP
Federal Member for Flynn

The Hon Michael McCormack MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for infrastructure, transport and regional development
Leader of The Nationals
Member of Riverina

MEDIA RELEASE

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KEN GOES INTO BAT FOR THE BURNETT

A LANDMARK study into water security in the North and South Burnett and delivering a fairer deal for local farmers is top of Ken O'Dowd's plans to grow the region.

In a letter to Deputy Prime Minister and Nationals' Leader Michael McCormack, Mr O'Dowd has called for the Federal Government to deliver a feasibility study and get the facts on the table for local farmers and small businesses.

"This is a critical issue for the North and South Burnett and something locals have raised with me for many years," Mr O'Dowd said.

"I have toured the region with senior Nationals' Cabinet Ministers and heard first-hand what an issue water security is for the region.

"By securing water and extending water infrastructure, I can see the potential local farmers have to keep producing the food and fibre the nation needs and even take advantage of the new trade opportunities across Asia thanks to our many trade deals."

Mr O'Dowd suggests opening up the region through examining infrastructure such as a new weir at Cooranga north of the Boondooma Dam and Barambah Creek for Coulston Lakes and pipe water for Paradise Dam to Coulston Lakes.

"If water allocations increase and we get on and built projects like these, local farmers tell me our agricultural production could double and, in some places, potentially triple," Mr O'Dowd said.

“More produce means more jobs and more money flowing into local small businesses.”

In calling on the Federal Government to deliver the study, Mr O’Dowd said the Liberal and Nationals’ Government is not afraid to build dams.

“Unlike Labor, we don’t get spooked by the Greens or inner-city seats which don’t want to see regions like ours get the jobs and opportunities we deserve,” Mr O’Dowd said.

“We are proud to believe in dams and I reckon our part of the world is a great place to look at building some.”

Mr O’Dowd will meet with Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack in the coming weeks to discuss the Burnett’s region’s potential.

ENDS.

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