



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Vaile fails to commit to Chaffey Dam upgrade

Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the National Party, Mark Vaile has today failed to commit to the upgrading of Chaffey Dam.

Mr Vaile, in response to a question from the Independent Member for New England Tony Windsor, danced around the issue.

“Mr Vaile had a perfect opportunity to provide confidence to the people of the city of Tamworth and water users along the Peel River who need the upgrade for better security of the water resource for their livelihoods that the Chaffey Dam would be upgraded regardless of what happens with the Commonwealth’s plan to take over the Murray Darling Basin.

Mr Vaile instead danced around the issue which he is publicly reported to have supported indicating that the upgrade of the Chaffey Dam is not just a local issue but a national issue,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor agrees with the Deputy Prime Minister that the Chaffey Dam upgrade is a national issue but reminds people of Mr Vaile’s words to wheat growers at Warracknabeal in Victoria where he gave an undertaking to poll them on any changes to Australia’s Single Desk wheat export marketing system.

“I agree with Mr Vaile that the upgrade of Chaffey Dam is of national significance.

My attempt to have Mr Vaile commit to its upgrade follows the experience of wheat growers attending the Single Desk Rally at Warracknabeal in Victoria where he gave an undertaking to poll wheat growers on any changes that may be mooted.

Within in a fortnight he had backed away from his undertaking – never denying that he made it but not following through with it.

I can see the same thing happening with Chaffey Dam unless the community maintains the pressure on the Government to perform.

I certainly will be,” Mr Windsor said.

Further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080 or 0427 66 8868