



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Media Release

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Chaffey Dam announcement good news

The announcement today of Commonwealth funding for the Chaffey Dam upgrade is seen by the Independent Member for New England Tony Windsor as good news for the community that the Dam serves.

“The Commonwealth funding for the Chaffey Dam upgrade is good news for Tamworth city residents and Peel Valley irrigators as well the broader community who use it for other recreational purposes.

It will better secure the future of Tamworth’s town water but, just as importantly, it will give better security to Peel Valley irrigators whose water entitlements have been severely impacted on by the lack of water resource severely limiting their ability to earn a living,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor said that the Commonwealth funding is the last piece of the funding jigsaw that will now enable the project to commence.

“The Commonwealth funding of \$6.545M completes the project funding jigsaw joining the already committed Tamworth Regional Council funds of \$2.482M, Peel Valley Irrigators – 0.876M and the NSW State Government funding of \$4.697M on top of their \$14.5M commitment for the safety works needed for Chaffey Dam to be done at the same time as the upgrade.

The project should now be able to receive the sign off required from the State Government to see work commence as soon as possible,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor is also very pleased that the announcement by the Deputy Prime Minister Mark Vaile has been made before the announcement of the election date.

“It was important that the Commonwealth announce its contribution prior to the election to remove any possibility of post election complications in terms of the new Commonwealth Water Act that takes control of the Murray Darling River system from the States and a possible change of government.

Signing off on the Chaffey Dam upgrade now is the only way that the upgrade can be guaranteed and not caught up in red tape after the election.

Obviously, Mr Vaile’s announcement is made in light of concurrence by the Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, Malcolm Turnbull and will therefore have no further impediments put in its way to completion.

I’m pleased to see that the ongoing politicking over this important piece of infrastructure is now no longer and I look forward to it being built and doing what it’s designed to do,” Mr Windsor said.

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