



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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South Australian Labor MPs vote against Murray Darling water security amendment

Irresponsible Party solidarity has defeated an amendment that would have gone a long way to securing water inflows into the Murray–Darling Basin according to the Member for New England Tony Windsor.

Mr Windsor said that South Australian Labor Members of Parliament had voted along party lines to defeat his amendment that would have provided greater knowledge of the groundwater catchment system of the Murray-Darling Basin that could have provided greater security for Adelaide's water supply.

Mr Windsor moved an amendment to the "Water Amendment Bill 2008" this morning that would have empowered the Federal Government to override State mining interests and commit to an independent inquiry into the affects of long wall mining on groundwater on the Liverpool Plains and other areas that form part of the Murray- Darling Basin catchment.

He said the SA Labor MPs, along with other Labor MPs whose seats cover other river system catchment areas, had voted to allow the vested interests of State Governments to override the intent and the spirit of the Water Amendment Bill.

"The Federal Government has a mandate and responsibility to override the interests of State Governments to ensure the security of the Nation's water supply.

The issue goes beyond the Liverpool Plains and the Murray-Darling Basin catchment. It extends to all rivers and catchment systems as part of a national water management strategy." Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor said the new ALP Government had learned nothing from the behaviour of the previous Coalition Government whose Members had consistently voted along party lines to the detriment of individual Members and their constituents that ultimately led to their defeat at the 2007 election.

"It is unfortunate that even now in these dire times, Party politics still holds sway over the greater good of the nation," Mr Windsor said.

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