



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Media Release

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Senate passes Coal Study amendment

The Australian Senate has passed an amendment to the “*Water Amendment Bill 2008*” which will compel a water study to take place before mining activity occurs on floodplains in the Murray Darling System.

The announcement, moved by Greens Leader, Senator Bob Brown, was the same as that moved by the Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor, in the House of Representatives.

Senator Brown was supported by the Coalition in the Senate which achieved the numbers to get the Bill amended.

The amendment, *Mitigation of unintended diversions*, states that before any mining exploration licences are granted for mining activity on flood plains that have underlying groundwater systems that lead to the inflows in the Murray Darling Basin, an independent study has to take place to determine the impacts on groundwater flows and water quality.

Mr Windsor said he was delighted that the Senate had endorsed the amendment.

The amendment will now return to the House of Representatives where it will be re-debated.

Mr Windsor said “hopefully the Government will see the need for the scientific study and recognise that to guarantee quality water in the Murray Darling System, we must know what is happening with the groundwater systems and how they relate to surface water systems before mining activity is allowed within those systems.”