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MEDIA RELEASE

NSW Election shows water security must be a priority

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NSW Irrigators' Council (NSWIC) congratulates the Berejiklian Government on their re-election.

As an apolitical organisation, NSWIC will continue working with Government to develop best-practice and evidence-based policy, in consultation with the people on the ground who these decisions affect, first and foremost.

CEO of the NSW Irrigators' Council, Luke Simpkins, said "The election outcome shows the importance of rural seats, and why rural matters must remain important for any Government."

"The outcome shows that what is important for rural people is - water. We must address water security for our farmers and communities."

"The NSW election came amidst a devastating drought, and frustration by farmers about their access to water."

"The most important priority for water users, is the need for policy stability. We cannot afford to face a policy drought, as well as a rainfall drought."

"A further priority is restoring confidence in the management of water, through increased transparency, strong compliance and investment in research and development, so our irrigation farmers can continue to lead the world in best management practice with the confidence of the public."

"We will continue to work with all elected Members to ensure water management is best-practice, considerate of socio-economic impacts, and that results in water being used most effectively and efficiently."

NSWIC awaits the decision for the Ministerial portfolio of water, following the resignation of former Minister Niall Blair yesterday.

“We thank Minister Blair for his service during what has been an exceedingly challenging time for water management in NSW.”

Moving towards the Federal Election, NSWIC highlights to candidates the importance of water security for our farmers and communities. This nation needs Australian grown food and fibre. Those that want to kill off rural Australia by stopping the growing of irrigated crops should stop working against the national interest.

“Water management cannot be a political football, but must be best-practice, evidence-based, and developed in consultation with local communities.”

“The results of the NSW Election show that water security must be a priority.”

For further information:

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Approved JC/TN