

MEDIA RELEASE

A new vision for irrigation farming of the future brought to Canberra for upcoming Federal Election

05/04/2019

“The iFarmers vision is a vision for a water secure, prosperous and sustainable future of irrigation farming,” said CEO of NSW Irrigators’ Council, Luke Simpkins.

“To overcome the challenges of producing food and fibre amidst real concerns of water insecurity, will require significant attention and investment by Government.”

Chair of the NSWIC, Jim Cush, says “This Federal Election comes at a pivotal moment for irrigation farming, and agriculture. Farmers are facing water insecurity from a devastating dry climate, but also a testing political climate.”

“We must now embark, through collaboration and leadership, on a new vision for a water secure, prosperous and sustainable future of Irrigation Farming.”

The iFarmers vision addresses the top 5 priority areas for irrigation farmers in NSW as we move towards the future.

This includes:

1. Securing the property rights instilled in water licences;
2. Measured implementation of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan for stability;
3. Responding to a changing climate, water availability and drought;
4. Transparency of water use and river management; and
5. Investing in reliable, efficient and cost-effective energy solutions.

“Irrigation allows precious water resources to be used most efficiently for food and fibre production, which will become increasingly important with growing concerns of water security.”

“Irrigation also has a major role for rural communities, with many families dedicated to doing the hard work to provide us with high-quality, ethically produced and seemingly abundant fresh produce.”

“Irrigation farmers have a valuable role in watering wetlands, restoring habitats on their lands, and funding water quality improvements in our river systems.”

The full iFarmers Vision is available at: <http://www.nswic.org.au/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Federal-Election-Platform-2019.pdf>



CEO Luke Simpkins taking the priorities of NSW Irrigation Farmers to Canberra

For further information:
Luke Simpkins – CEO NSW Irrigators' Council
0410 976 919
Approved JC/TN