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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **NSW Irrigators' Council backs our Minister**

**05/08/2019**

The NSW Irrigators' Council agrees with NSW Water Minister Melinda Pavey that all options should be considered regarding the Murray-Darling Basin Plan and the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement.

Luke Simpkins, the CEO of NSWIC said, "the Minister is right to put NSW first and should absolutely be thinking of rural NSW at this time. Our towns are running out of water and our crops are not being grown. Throughout the State the people of NSW are suffering and if the Minister isn't going to stand up for NSW, no one else will."

The NSW Irrigators' Council is pleased that the Minister carried forward to the MinCo meeting a number of issues raised by our Council. These included the questionable scientific status of certain foundations of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan and the transparency of the presumptions upon which the targets are based, the need to get the SDL Adjustment Mechanism Projects right, the issues regarding deliverability and the need to share the burden of the drought across all the States.

The NSWIC also agrees with the comments from the Deputy Premier, John Barilaro that our state has no more water to give.

The position of the NSWIC is that the existence of the drought is not evidence that the Plan is failing, but the drought is an opportunity for Governments to demonstrate that people will always come first. From here, everything that the NSW Government does needs to be focused on what is best for rural NSW and the people of our State.

There have been 37 inquiries so far with many recommendations unresolved, and we also have a Federal Independent Panel regarding Socio-Economic outcomes under Robbie Sefton. While there may be room for an independent inquiry into the science upon which the Plan was based, all Governments need to focus on what is best for the people.

For further information:  
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