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MEDIA RELEASE

Federal Government takes action to understand socio-economic conditions of river communities

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NSW Irrigators' Council congratulates the Federal Government and the Murray-Darling Basin Authority for taking action to better understand the social and economic conditions in irrigation communities.

CEO of the NSW Irrigators' Council, Luke Simpkins, said "The need to better understand the social and economic conditions of irrigation communities has been the centrepiece of our advocacy for some time."

"This is a huge win for irrigation farmers and the river communities they support."

"With a great deal of debate about how water is managed in the Basin, it is crucial that we really listen to the ways water reform impacts on communities, particularly communities which exist because of their productive use of water for farming."

Chair of the NSW Irrigators' Council, and irrigation farmer, Jim Cush, said "Irrigation farmers are facing water insecurity from a devastating dry climate, but also a testing political climate."

"It is so important that we listen to what farmers have to say, understand their lived experiences, and incorporate that knowledge into policy to be best-practice."

NSW Irrigators' Council commends Minister Littleproud and the Murray-Darling Basin Authority for this initiative.

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