



Feedback  
Form



**iFarmers – A Vision  
for a Water Secure,  
Prosperous and  
Sustainable Future  
of Irrigation Farming**

2019 Federal Election Platform

## Priority Ask 1

Apply rules of access and security consistently across water products regardless of ownership. Long term reliability of products must not be undermined through policy implementation.

### Your feedback:

Labor will get the Murray Darling Basin Plan back on track.

Our full policy is here:

<https://www.tonyburke.com.au/media-releases/2019/5/6/media-release-labor-will-get-the-basin-plan-back-on-track>

Labor supports a well functioning water market that access and security it provides.

## Priority Ask 2

Measured implementation of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan for stability.

### Your feedback:

Our full policy is here: <https://www.tonyburke.com.au/media-releases/2019/5/6/media-release-labornbspwillnbspget-the-basin-plan-back-on-tracknbsp>

## Priority Ask 3

Respond and adapt to a changing climate of water availability by investing in innovative infrastructure and RD&E for water storage and use.

### Your feedback:

Labor's plans include R&D. Excerpts from our policy are:

- Labor will ensure reviews of the Basin Plan and its implementation include a fresh audit of the latest science and information, compared to what informed the Basin Plan. This will include the latest data on climate change, evaporation and inflows.
- Labor will commission CSIRO to re-run the Sustainable Yield study with a longer timeframe. The original Sustainable Yields study was to 2030, the new study would be to 2050 and will demonstrate what will happen to environmental health in the face of climate change. This work will inform reviews of the Basin Plan.
- Labor will allocate \$6 million to an independent study of how climate change is likely to affect the Basin and RAMSAR sites across the Basin. This will include the impact of sea level rise on the Coorong and lower lakes as well as other key sites like the Ovens, Menindee, Macquarie marshes and red gum forests.
- Provide \$20 million to expand research on the Murray-Darling Basin for better water and environmental management as well as examine how climate change will impact the Basin. This work will address gaps in our knowledge as recommended by the Academy of Science and Professor Vertessy.

## Priority Ask 4

Invest in measures which improve the transparency of water management and water use to build public trust and reach world-leading basin-scale water monitoring and data availability.

### Your feedback:

Labor will establish a Commission of Inquiry into the 2017 purchase of certain water entitlements from Eastern Australia Agriculture Pty Ltd, under the Royal Commissions Act.

- Labor will commission an independent review, by the Australian Public Service Commission (APSC), into the governance and conduct of the Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA), to report to Government within six months.
- Labor will work to make the MDBA more transparent. We will give the public access to real time metering and monitoring, to federal modelling, details of supply projects and all relevant information as it becomes available. Improving transparency is critical for the public to regain confidence, to maintain integrity in the system and to show outcomes.
- Labor will audit floodplain harvesting and crack down on illegal structures that have been built in the Basin to divert water. This work will be informed by the work of the Northern Basin Commissioner and the reviews into fish kills in the Darling, south of Menindee.
- Labor will reinstate the Sustainable Rivers Audit
- Labor will move the MDBA's compliance division in to the newly created Federal Environmental Protection Agency.

## Priority Ask 5

Invest in reliable, efficient and cost-effective energy solutions.

### Your feedback:

Response pending.