



NSW IRRIGATORS' COUNCIL

MEDIA RELEASE

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Abbott Abandons Regional NSW

The NSW Irrigators Council says that Tony Abbott has shown himself content to abandon rural and regional NSW in pandering to marginal seats in Adelaide.

The Council has reacted angrily to comments made by the Federal Liberal Leader in his tour of the lower reaches of the Murray (see [here](#)).

Council's Chief Executive Officer Andrew Gregson says irrigators and the regional communities that rely on irrigation will take Abbott's comments as a slap in the face.

"Mr Abbott says 'It's important that I familiarise myself with the real, practical problems here in the lower Murray'. Well, Mr Abbott, turn yourself upstream and start walking. It's important that you have a grasp on the entire system before you start shooting from the lip.

Abbott has further incensed the Council with his statement 'that the over allocation of water upstream is contributing to the problem.'

"Abbott proved he was no expert a month ago when he announced a foolhardy plan for a Referendum on Commonwealth control of the Murray-Darling Basin that was rejected by irrigators and environmental groups. Today he's provided further evidence by pointing an accusatory finger upstream – mate, that's where the water is currently coming from to assist your Lakes!

The Council has called on the National Party to stand up for regional and rural NSW against Abbott.

"It's time for the Nationals to represent their constituency in the Party Room. The Referendum policy is silly; they acknowledge that privately and now they must take action to be rid of it.

"Pandering to South Australian politics comes at a price – and we're not going to pay it."

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