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Party Water Policy Questionnaire Responses *No Vision, No Policy and No Response!*

The NSW Irrigators Council has published on its website responses received from the three main political parties to a policy platform and questionnaire sent early in the election.

(The platform, questionnaire and responses are available at www.nswic.org.au)

Council Chief Executive Officer Andrew Gregson says the platform and questionnaire were designed to allow the parties – the ALP, the Coalition and the Greens – to provide detail of their policies directly to the stakeholders represented by NSWIC. He says that the results are disappointing, at best.

“The ALP response shows no vision, the Greens response shows no policy and the Coalition failed to provide a response at all.

“The management of water resources across Australia – and in the Murray-Darling Basin in particular – should have been a key issue in this election. The Basin Plan should have been released to show all Australians how unbalanced it is and to force political parties to detail what they would do in Government.

“The ALP argue that the *Water Act* will produce a balanced outcome. It only takes a read of the thing to realise that isn't true. At the same time, their commitment to buying any difference between current plan caps and new SDLs is welcome.

“The Greens advocate sustainable rural communities, yet fail to outline how they will achieve this. At the same time, they propose to extinguish State rights by trampling the Constitution.

“The Coalition simply didn't bother to respond, which shows nothing short of contempt for our sector.”

ENDS

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