



David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Media statement

November 19, 2016

Maranoa MP slams Qld Labor Govt's no show at vital Murray-Darling Basin Plan talks yesterday

QUEENSLAND was yesterday unrepresented during vital Murray-Darling Basin Plan talks with the state's Natural Resources Minister Dr Anthony Lynham a no show, instead choosing to make funding announcements in Toowoomba, which he could have made at any time, Federal Member for Maranoa David Littleproud said.

"Minister Lynham's no-show means that towns like St George and Dirranbandi – which both rely on the Murray-Darling Basin for their very survival – have been abandoned by the Queensland Government," Mr Littleproud said.

Yesterday the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Group – which oversees the MDBA and is comprised of all State Government Water Ministers and the Federal Government's Water Minister – met to make crucial recommendations, which will form the basis of the community consultation soon to take place.

Minister Lynham told reporters in Toowoomba yesterday that he would be dialling-in by phone and that he has been extensively involved in the MDP Plan to date.

"This is an absolute disgrace – the Queensland Minister would have been the only person at the table capable of fighting for Dirranbandi and St George's future and he was missing in action," Mr Littleproud said.

"That meeting was far too important for the lives of the people along the Northern Basin for the Minister to dial-in by phone and hope to have his say over the other State Ministers at that table who were each there fighting for their own states.

"Last week I called on the Minister to publically declare his position, but he chose to stay silent.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I think he wouldn't even show up to such an important meeting – and in a sign of great disregard, he still refuses to tell the people of Dirranbandi and St George what he advocated for yesterday.

"If Minister Lynham believes that selling out Queensland will somehow magically improve the environment, appease his party's green faction and save his seat then he is not only delusional, but also acting recklessly and in his own self-interest.

“Economic uncertainty is already rife with children being pulled out of local schools as their parents move away in search of work as the workforce participation rates in these regions are decreasing at an alarming rate in St George and Dirranbandi.

“Water is a precious resource and we need sustainable management of our rivers, but not at the expense of these communities, which have done their fair share in the heavy lifting and contributed greatly towards our nation’s economy.”

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