

# WATER ALLOCATION PLANS IN THE SOUTH EAST NRM REGION

**A STRONG PLAN  
FOR REAL CHANGE.**



## **We're ready.**

Over the last four years, we've been working hard developing our vision for the future of South Australia.

Not just policies, but a series of achievable milestones that have been crafted for the long-term benefit of our state.

*Our focus will be*

**MORE JOBS.  
LOWER COSTS.  
BETTER SERVICES.**

We've got a strong plan for real change.

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'Stirling', is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, set against the teal background.



## WHAT WE'LL DO

If elected in March 2018 a Marshall Liberal Government will put on hold any further cuts to water allocations in the South East Natural Resources Management (NRM) region.

We will initiate a review of the science on which these cuts have been proposed by DEWNR.

Until that review is completed and considered through a process of community engagement and consultation, there will be no further cuts to water allocations in the South East NRM.

## **WHY WE'RE DOING IT**

Water is important to the environment.

It's also important to farmers, their productivity and their ability to be efficient producers and exporters.

Water Allocation Plans (WAP) have been developed to set out rules for managing the take and use of water and ensure resource sustainability.

The establishment of WAPs has tended to be convoluted, taking a number of years. This has created uncertainty, particularly to those using water to grow crops.

A view has developed amongst many of those required to comply with WAPs that the Plans are 'handed down' from the Adelaide-based DEWNR bureaucracy with predetermined positions, including on scientific matters, used to dictate terms of the Plans before community consultation even begins.

The problem has become most significant in the South-East, where a number of WAPs have been challenged.

This has resulted in farmers coming together to spend tens of thousands of dollars to seek their own scientific information and initiate action in the Environment, Resources and Development Court to halt reductions in their allocations.

Reductions in WAPs often have a significant economic impact, reducing the productivity of regions and hurting individuals and communities, reducing on-farm jobs and cutting our potential exports through reduced yields.

It is clear that action is needed to maintain public confidence in the process of developing and implementing WAPs



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