



Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck

Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources

Liberal Senator for Tasmania

MEDIA RELEASE

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Water Fund to Help Transform Tasmanian Farming Communities

The National Water Infrastructure Development Fund will deliver an extra \$500 million for water infrastructure, including in Tasmania.

Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, Senator Richard Colbeck, said the Coalition Government is committed to a stronger economy.

Assistant Minister Colbeck: “We can grow a strong economy by investing in infrastructure that grows jobs and opportunities for Tasmanian farming communities.”

“Irrigation infrastructure has been transformative for farmers right across Tasmania and access to new resources will provide expanded export opportunities.

“Tasmania has a competitive advantage because we are one of the only areas in Australia where we are actively developing water resources.

“This year the Coalition Government, in partnership with local irrigators and the Liberal State Government, has delivered funding for the \$57.3 million Tranche 2 Scottsdale Irrigation Scheme.

“For some farmers in that region it has given them the opportunity to double their herds because the right amount of water at the right time provides the certainty they need to invest and to grow.

“The Duck River scheme in Circular Head has also been vital for that region’s cropping and grazing operations and was made possible by a \$15.8 million Coalition Government investment.

“The transformative effect of irrigation is seen most starkly in the Midlands, where irrigation has reinvigorated the area and been a major contributing factor to the strong growth of our exports.

“New markets for Tasmanian farmers have emerged through Coalition Government Free Trade Agreements with China, Japan, South Korea, Peru, TPP-11 and now Hong Kong, and Tasmanian farmers will be able to take advantage by investing in new water infrastructure through the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund.”

The Fund’s expansion to more than \$1 billion, as well as the existing \$2 billion National Water Infrastructure Loan Facility program, means more than \$3 billion is now available from the Federal Government to support State and Territory Governments and their project partners, to build new water infrastructure and provide greater social and economic opportunity for Australians.

Further information on the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund is available at <https://infrastructure.gov.au/infrastructure/water-infrastructure/nwi-development-fund/>.

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