

Media release

23 December 2014



Water responsibility in new hands

Murray Irrigation has welcomed the announcement of The Hon Bob Baldwin as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment with responsibility for water and the implementation of the Murray Darling Basin Plan.

Mr Baldwin was announced Parliamentary Secretary as part of Prime Minister Tony Abbott's reshuffle released on Sunday 21 December 2014 and was sworn into the position at Government House today, 23 December 2014.

Murray Irrigation Chairman, Bruce Simpson, said Mr Baldwin, the Member for the NSW semi-rural coastal seat of Paterson has a steep learning curve in front of him to get across all of the issues in the Murray-Darling Basin.

"I look forward to the opportunity to meet with Mr Baldwin and talk to him about the issues facing this region," Mr Simpson said.

"Murray Irrigation has had a constructive working relationship with all previous Ministers responsible for this crucial portfolio and I am sure that will remain under Mr Baldwin.

"The previous Parliamentary Secretary, Senator Simon Birmingham – now promoted to the outer Ministry – made it a priority to travel through the Basin to talk to communities. We have invited Mr Baldwin to do the same.

"A key issue for this region is the on-going water recover and how that is achieved.

"We want to see Mr Baldwin finally legislate the cap on buyback that Senator Birmingham committed to.

"We also want to see the MDBA start to take seriously the community concerns about constraints management and the SDL adjustment mechanism.

"There is no doubt Mr Baldwin has a huge job ahead of him, but we are confident that we will continue to have a good working relationship with him and the Government," Mr Simpson said.

Ends.

For more information contact Murray Irrigation Communications Supervisor, Catharine Heffernan on T. 1300 138 265.