Dear Federal Election Candidate,

Water is my primary focus in this upcoming Federal Election.

In this election I’m seeking strong political leaders who have the power and influence to pursue the win-win solutions, who seek to protect irrigation as well as the environment, and who genuinely work with community in a transparent and flexible manner. We want the best possible outcome for our rice industry and its people.

I urge you to consider our top 5 priorities in this coming election:

1. No more productive water recovery.
   1. Seek constructive, collaborative and innovative solutions that avoid further productive water recovery.
   2. Provide farmers, industries and communities with the confidence to invest in the future.
   3. Maintain the current 1500GL cap on buybacks.
   4. Ensure recently agreed Neutrality Test criteria is applied accurately across Basin States.
2. Accountability for environmental water use.
   1. Ensure that the use and trade of environmental water is coordinated to achieve maximum benefit while avoiding unmitigated impacts.
   2. Improve the transparency of Environmental Water Management.
   3. Apply water use efficiency standards and measurement/metering to environmental water use.
3. Delivery of the 605GL Water Recovery Offset projects without negative socio-economic impacts.
   1. Assist the State Governments to deliver at least the full 605GL water recovery offset from Supply Measure projects by:
      1. Agreeing to provide the State government with more flexibility in designing these projects to improve the water recovery offset and prevent negative third party impacts.
      2. Enable State Governments the extra time needed to deliver quality projects.
4. Stop the erosion of water entitlement reliability.
   1. Work with community, industry and Basin State governments to find practical solutions which seek to:
      1. Restore eroded reliability resulting from past State and Federal government water policy decisions; and
      2. Prevent extremely high river losses in the Murray River contributing to reduced water allocations into the future.
5. Reduce the pain of water reforms to our communities and industries.
   1. Undertake projects that contribute to the continued vibrancy of irrigation communities, including:
      1. Increase water trade transparency by developing a national water trade platform.
      2. Assist State Government to move to a real-time water allocation system.
      3. Increase Federal Government investment in irrigation efficiency Research, Development and Extension.
      4. Provide relief from Federal water charges during dry periods.
      5. Recognise the important environmental habitat provided by irrigation and investigate opportunities to use environmental water within irrigation systems to enhance these benefits.

We look forward to your support to make our Australian rice industry and communities resilient and prosperous.

Yours sincerely,