



## Media Release

Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> September 2008

# SRI at Cross-Basin meeting

A group of Southern Riverina Irrigators (SRI) representatives led by SRI Chairman Ted Hatty and Chief Executive Officer Jennie Hehir are in South Australia this week to attend a Murray Darling Basin, Lower Lakes and Coorong Cross-Basin Meeting to engage South Australian government, irrigators and representative groups on water issues.

SRI is the peak body for five landholder associations and 1600 irrigators in the Murray Valley.

The Meeting organised by the South Australian government's Natural Resources Committee aims to bring irrigators from different parts of the Basin together to achieve a better cross-Basin understanding of current water issues.

SRI Chief Executive Officer Jennie Hehir said the Meeting was an important step in bringing the plight of Southern Riverina irrigators directly to South Australian communities.

“Our key message is that there is no water here in our region, that we have experienced two years of zero allocation and are looking down the barrel of a third, and that the consequences of that for our irrigators and communities is devastating,” Ms Hehir said.

Ms Hehir acknowledged the support of Murray Irrigation Limited, who sponsored transport for the trip to South Australia.

The Meeting included a tour of the Lower Lakes, the site of the proposed Wellington Weir, Milang Pump Station, Goolwa and Narrung Narrows, which is the site for pumping from Lake Alexandrina to Lake Albert.

SRI also organized an additional tour with local farmer James Darling of where the Coorong drains into the sea.

ENDS

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