

Nicholls Candidates

| Candidate | Replied to Email | Opposes Buybacks | Detialed Water Policy Provided | Speak Up Supported |
|---|------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Sam Birrell - Nationals | ✓ | ✓ | NA | NA |
| Glenn Floyd - Trumpet of Patriots | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Jeff Davy - Citizens Party | NA | | NA | NA |
| Kim Travers - Labor Party | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Shelby Eade - Greens | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Paul Bachelor - Family First | ✓ | ✓ | NA | NA |
| Aaron Tyrrell - Pauline Hanson's One Nation | NA | NA | NA | NA |

Nicholls Candidates Water Policy / Replies to Email

All Candidates standing for the seat of Nicholls were sent the following email -

As you are aware, water policy is one of the biggest issues facing the Nicholls electorate, which is reliant on the prosperity of irrigated agriculture.

Speak Up members have asked for guidance on the water policy of the candidates for the 20205 election. Could you please send me your water policy, particularly your position on buybacks by Thursday, April 24th, to enable us to provide feedback to our members.

*With thanks,
Shelley Scoullar*

Please find below the correspondence from the candidates -

Sam Birrell - Nationals

Hi Shelley,

The Coalition would put a stop to open tender water buybacks across the Murray-Darling Basin.

Mr Birrell is on record saying; “Our policy is clear, and our view is firm. We do not support water buybacks.”

Kind regards

Paul Bachelor - Family First

Hello Shelley, thank you for your message.

[Family First Party](#) which is standing 7 Senate & near 100 lower house candidates, has no specific policy regarding water in this area, other than fighting for small family business cohesion (as below) but my personal view & experience -

1. Am aware some major party members now acknowledge components of the MDBP were simply wrong and destructive of values for which Family First stands.
2. As a small, irrigated property owner near the Murray (& multiple exploratory visitor to Goolwa), we have observed & protested components of the MDBP for years.
3. Separation of water from land occurring since we moved to this property, had significant impact on water pricing for small family farms.
4. Having been a project engineer and for a time, conducted soil analysis from Echuca to Lockington, witnessed the implications of, often reluctant, water selloff on small family farm businesses.
5. The financial pressure on land holders to sell water and/or lease land to “Intermittent” (renewable) power agencies or Transgrid, is destroying so much rural family & community life. Compounding the drought impact to closure of numerous local dairy processing factories.
6. Tragic to see the destruction/covering of prime Agricultural, Horticultural & (nearby) Viticulture land with infrastructure, requiring disposal somehow, after 25 years.
7. Not the least are the farming operational constraints on Transgrid leases and the enormous destruction via swaths of National Park (Mt Kosciusko – 8km x 140m wide) environment having significant impact on fauna & runoff water degradation.

Family First Party policy 2025 – relevant sections.

Economic freedom for families

- Housing affordability – release more land and reduce red tape to free up supply and lower prices.
- Energy affordability and reliability – pause net zero policies until a proper cost benefit of the engineering and economics has been conducted.
- Use gas to avoid blackouts by firming electricity supply and to lower retail power prices. Unlock gas reserves by lifting restrictions on exploration. Keep coal-fired power stations open until there are viable and affordable alternatives that provide baseload electricity.

- Pursue nuclear energy.
- Increase gas supply to drive industry and jobs.
- Fight inflation – Cut red tape, reduce government expenditure, boost gas and energy production and release land for housing.
- Debt reduction – Put state and federal governments on a pathway towards fiscal responsibility by tackling government debt.

This will mean reducing the size of government and de-funding unnecessary programs.

• **Encourage small and family business.**

• **Encourage enterprise by reducing government regulation.**

Freedom

- Reduce the size of government.
- Encourage civil society's "little platoons" so government does what the community is unable to do.
- Support the principle of 'subsidiarity' – ([former Deputy Prime Minister John Anderson explains 'subsidiarity' to the 2023 Alliance for Responsible Citizenship conference in London.](#)).
- Reform state and federal anti-discrimination and vilification legislation so that freedom of speech and religion is restored.
- Continuous review of laws and regulations and repeal any which are unnecessary.

Trust this addresses your request.