

Farrer Candidates

Candidate	Replied to Email	Opposes Buybacks	Detailed Water Policy Provided	Speak Up Supported
Peter Sinclair - SFF	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tanya Hargraves - Trumpet of Patriots	✓	✓	NA	NA
Michelle Milthorpe - IND	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sussan Ley - Liberal Party	NA	✓	NA	NA
Glen Hyde - Labor Party	NA	NA	NA	NA
Richard Hendrie - Greens	NA	NA	NA	NA
David O'Rielly - Gerard Rennick People First	NA	NA	NA	NA
Rebecca Scriven - Family First	NA	NA	NA	NA
Emma Hicks - Pauline Hanson's One Nation	✓	✓	✓	✓

Farrer Candidates Water Policy / Replies to Email

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

As you are aware, water policy is one of the biggest issues facing the Farrer 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 -

Peter Sinclair - Shooters, Fishers, Farmers

Good afternoon Shelly,

SFF does not support buybacks, NSW is in this position of having buybacks forced upon them because of a systemic failure of the NSW Coalition to deliver the SDLAM projects on time, and in many cases at all. Buybacks can artificially inflate the price of water in the market which ultimately hurts those growing our food and fibre.

Detailed Policy Found Here - [SFF Water Policy](#)

Tanya Hargraves

Hi Shelley,

It was great meeting with you on Thursday and thanks for your time and sending me information regarding the Basin Plan.

I believe this is a serious issue that needs to be resolved. Australia needs water and farmers to survive and farmers should be praised and supported, not condemned by the government.

We will be including proper management of water so farmers can thrive as one of our policies.

Emma Hicks - One Nation

Hi Shelley,

Here is our policy on Water for our electorate.

Water reform in the Murray-Darling Basin

The Murray-Darling Basin supports 40% of Australia's food and fibre production, and the potable water requirements of more than two million Australians. The Water Act 2007 and the Murray Darling Basin Plan provide the framework for water reform in the Basin, aiming to recover a total of 3200 gigalites per year from irrigation to environmental water flows. This has involved the investment of up to \$13 billion in water buybacks and infrastructure upgrades. One Nation does not support the 3200 GL/year target.

Water buybacks, while being the cheapest form of water recovery per megalitre, have been devastating for river and irrigation communities across the Basin. One Nation does not support the recovery of more water by this mechanism.

Water reform in the Basin has also involved the creation of a water trading market, effectively 'decoupling' water entitlements and allocations from the land where they are used. One Nation supports water trading between Australian irrigators who have land and crops or livestock which can use it, as this provides greater business flexibility for farmers in the Basin's highly variable climate.

Our party does not support water trading by entities with no land (and therefore no use for water other than as a commodity) and we do not support foreign entities trading water in the Basin at all.

Changes made to the Water Act 2007 and the Basin Plan in 2023 by Labor and the Greens have expanded the scope of water recovery through buybacks, again threatening river communities with more job and business losses, and subsequent reductions in basic services. One Nation considers that with more than 2100 GL/year already recovered for environmental flows, enough is enough.

One Nation will move to reverse the changes made to the Water Act 2007 and the Basin Plan:

- restoring the legislated 1500 GL/year cap/limit on buybacks;
- restoring the 320 GL/year recovery target in the northern Basin; and
- restoring the original socio-economic test for the recovery of the 450 GL/year 'Water for the Environment Special Account' introduced by the Gillard Labor Government.

One Nation considers that all other forms of water recovery in the Basin should be exhausted before buybacks.

These options include:

- investment in water-efficient distribution infrastructure in irrigation areas – primarily by rehabilitating open channel systems;
- investment in research, development and extension of water-efficient farming practices, such as precision irrigation and farming systems which improve the water-holding capacity of soils; and
- utilising other sources of water for environmental flows, such as the South-East Drainage Scheme in South Australia.

One Nation also seeks targeted reforms in water trading in the Basin:

- restricting foreign ownership of water and water assets; and
- introducing stringent transparency measures in water trading across the Basin, including a public registry of water ownership and transactions.

Michelle Milthorpe - IND

Michelle asked Speak Up for comment on her Water Policy Positionn and can be found here - [Water Policy Position](#)