

February 4, 2020

NSW Parliament to debate Basin Plan petition

A petition calling for the NSW Government to support a federal Royal Commission into the Murray-Darling Basin Plan will be debated in State Parliament.

It was presented to the Parliament of NSW tabling office today (February 4) by Member for Murray Helen Dalton (Shooters Fishers & Farmers Party) and a date is expected to be set for a parliamentary debate..

The petition was instigated by the community-based Speak Up Campaign and achieved the 10,000 signatures needed for the debate.

Once a date has been scheduled Parliament will have to vote on a motion calling for the NSW Government to support a federal Royal Commission, as well as a national water ownership register.

The petition, launched last year, stated it “brings to the attention of the House the devastating and inequitable impacts to rural communities and to ecosystems and the environment across regional NSW due to poor water policy, in particular the Murray-Darling Basin Plan”.

It continued:

The undersigned petitioners therefore ask the Legislative Assembly to support:

1. Call for a Federal Royal Commission into the Murray Darling Basin Plan and the Murray Darling Basin Authority. It must include a just and broad Terms of Reference (determined in conjunction with impacted communities) that investigates the impacts of Flood Plain Harvesting and the historically estuarine nature of the Lower Lakes.
2. NSW Government petition the Federal Government to establish a Public National Water Register to increase the transparency of water ownership across the Basin.

For further information or interviews: Shelley Scoullar phone 0414 960 785

Caption: Speak Up Deputy Chair Lachlan Marshall with Member for Murray Helen Dalton MP, with the 10, 000 signatures