

# Speak Up Campaign Inc.

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**Luke Simpkin**

**CEO – NSW Irrigators Council**

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March 24, 2020

Dear Mr Simpkin,

I note with interest your letter to the Editor in the Weekly Times Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020, in which you corrected Mr Hateley on the establishment of a National Water Register.

While you are correct in stating that there is already a NSW Water Registry, you would be well aware that it is not publicly accessible, you need a broker number, a licence number and you need to pay to access the information. It is not a National Open Water Registry which is what has been supported by 11,000 people who signed the Speak Up petition put their name to, this would be implementing what was already legislated.

In fact a retrospective ownership registry is perhaps required so that we can determine the divisive decisions which has lead to the unacceptable and damaging set of water policies which we are now living.

No one condones bullying Mr Simpkin, and I can tell you that staple food producers in the southern basin totally reject the notion. In fact it is completely offensive to those representing the southern connected system who just want a fair go, who want to go about their jobs of supporting this country in a crisis, who have had enough of the manipulative political games which have seen them become the sacrificial lambs.

We do not tolerate your implications that our representatives are bullies for doing the work which peak advocacy groups should have been doing for years, conducting research, providing evidence and data so that the horrendous waste of water which has put so many good people out of business never occurred.

The southern connected system has debated with evidence and facts to save

- good food and fibre producers
- our environment
- our communities

Solutions presented to NSWIC from organisations in the NSW Murray would never have impacted other valleys, yet the NSW Murray has been marginalised and abandoned by the rest of the state.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shelley Scoullar".

Shelley Scoullar

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