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MEDIA RELEASE

MR KEELTY IIG REPORT

GOVERNMENT HAS LET US DOWN YET AGAIN SAY COMMUNITY LEADERS

Murrumbidgee Irrigation farmers and community members are very disappointed in the Inspector Generals' report tabled today.

"We can only say that it is soft, lacking vision and yet another waste of our community's time" said Paul Pierotti, acting president of Griffith Business Chamber and Chair of Murrumbidgee Industries and Agriculture Communities. (MIAC)

Debbie Buller, Murrumbidgee Irrigation Farmer and President of Murrumbidgee Valley Food and Fibre Association (MVFFA) agrees.

"For it to claim there is too much disunity and that farmers are lacking in education is absolute rubbish and flat out insulting. It is not our hard-working community members and business owners or our extraordinarily efficient, smart and innovative irrigation farmers who need educating."

A rally prompted David Littleproud to commission the report and it was all thanks to thousands of irrigators and community members from the Southern Basin, who descended on Canberra on December 2nd 2019. The message was very clear and it was united.

"Irrigation farmers have been educating governments for years that without access to water, food security in Australia will become an issue. The current pandemic, recent drought and bushfires has now highlighted massive flaws in current State and Federal water management which is now becoming evident on our supermarket shelves." Mrs Buller said.

Mr Pierotti is very concerned about how the community in general will respond to yet another disappointment.

"We have heard endless talk and we are rapidly losing any faith or trust."

A combined effort from MIA Communities, Griffith Business Chamber, Farmers and Irrigators have been involved in well over 100 submissions, reports and inquiries and are losing their tolerance.

"I don't think the 'status quo' realises that even though we're polite and generally cooperative people, we have completely lost patience. We need to see some real walk behind the endless talk. Enough is enough!" said Paul Pierotti.

-ENDS-

For more information please contact Paul Pierotti – 0427 007 322 paul@caesars.net.au