

NSW Signs Basin Plan IGA

The NSW Irrigators' Council congratulates the NSW Government on their negotiations with the Commonwealth and for now signing the Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) on the Basin Plan.

Council Chairman Richard Stott says that what the NSW Government were asking for was completely reasonable and holding out on signing the IGA until the details were right, was the only approach that made sense.

"Irrigators in NSW have worked long and hard to achieve a balance within the Basin Plan and we still have much work to do, but this is big step in the right direction."

NSW as the largest Basin State has been the target for much of the heavy lifting work required in the Basin Plan. The NSW Government acknowledged this and set out certain criteria that needed to be met before they would sign up to the IGA.

"It took courage for NSW Minister, Katrina Hodgkinson to not waiver in her insistence that these conditions be met. We can thank her for standing her ground."

"The five key points, Nimmie Caira and Menindee Lakes, Limiting of buyback, SDL review of Western Porous Rock groundwater, structural adjustment funding and Basin Plan implementation funding mean that NSW can now get on with the work at hand knowing we have these requirements covered."

Richard says the NSW Government and the Commonwealth got this one right but shouldn't rest there as there is still much to do.

ENDS.