

MEDIA RELEASE

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WATER RAGE

MLC Ruth Forrest today said she was very disappointed in the State Government's decision to increase its irrigation fees for farmers across the State. "This government is listening but it's not hearing", said the Member for Murchison in respect to a question raised in Parliament yesterday.

"I continue to be astounded by the hypocrisy of this Labor Government. On one hand they are all lining up to have their photo's taken inside a tractor and yet on the other hand they are not prepared to offer simple every day solutions to our farmers, which they have the power to do". Ms Forrest said.

"To increase irrigation fees at a time when vegetable cropping farmers face their biggest battle ever is unexplainable. It is greed to have a massive budget surplus and then to turn around and tax those in the community already suffering with new fees – it is outrageous" stated Ms Forrest.

The Leader of the Government, Hon Michael Aird, stated in Parliament that "even with this increase, water licence fees are still relatively inexpensive". "I consider this a very out of touch and misinformed statement indeed" said Ms Forrest.

"I challenge the Member to come to my electorate and state this to the very same farmers who have been hit with price reductions and acreage cutbacks and see the reaction he receives".

Further Ms Forrest accused the Government of failing farmers "This Government has proven that it is not prepared to stand up and support our farmers and just sees them as a means to raise revenue" the Member for Murchison said.

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For further information, please phone 0419 879 524.