



# MEDIA RELEASE

## RUTH FORREST MLC

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### **BOOM TIMES – NO DAMS!**

Murchison MLC Ruth Forrest expressed her outrage that dairy farmers will not be able to take full advantage of the boom times that have hit the dairy industry due to a twelve month delay by the Department of Primary Industries in approving new dam applications.

“Dairy farmers will be aiming to capitalise on the 40% price increase with many planning new infrastructure and capital development, especially new dams to enable them to grow more grass to feed more cows to produce more milk” Ms Forrest stated.

“To be informed that the Department of Primary Industries has a backlog of more than 160 dam applications and that farmers now have to wait 12 months for approval to occur is totally unacceptable” Ms Forrest said.

Ms Forrest has been informed that current approval for dam applications will take 12 months due to the backlog which has been attributed to the increased work load of the Department of Primary Industries as a result of the pulp mill approval process work load within the department. As dam construction generally occurs in the summer months this will mean a delay of at least 18 months or two seasons.

“In spite of recent legislative change regarding dam approvals this unacceptable delay has not been addressed by Government, resulting in farmers not being able to drought proof their property following one of the driest periods on record and also prevents farmers from expanding to capitalise during these boom times” said Ms Forrest.

“The State Government must address this backlog and waiting period immediately – to avoid being directly responsible for threatening growth and long term viability of the dairy industry” said Ms Forrest.

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For further information phone 0419 879 524

Rocky Cape dairy farmers, Andrew & Petrina Roberts are wanting to build a new dam to increase production and help drought proof their property but have been told of at least a 12 months delay. Andrew Roberts can be contacted on 0364434498.