



MEDIA RELEASE

**COUNTRY
LABOR**

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MEMBER FOR BATHURST**

**STEVE WHAN
MEMBER, COUNTRY LABOR
MEMBER FOR MONARO**

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Country Labor Asks National/Liberal Coalition: Where's Your Plan?

Country Labor members today challenged the NSW Nationals to produce their long-term plan for NSW, including their plan to support drought-affected families.

Member for Bathurst Gerard Martin and Member for Monaro Steve Whan said the Opposition was unable to do so.

"We all know that rain is the only thing that will truly give our farmers and drought-affected communities the security and peace of mind they need," said President of Country Labor and Member for Bathurst Gerard Martin.

"Until that rain comes, both State and Federal Governments are digging in and doing what they can to help.

"But what's interesting in all of this – although not surprising – is that the NSW Nationals and Liberals still have no concrete plan of their own.

"Over the past few weeks, the Lemna Labor Government has announced a number of enhancements to its drought package – taking its commitment to drought-stricken communities so far to one quarter of a billion dollars.

"This week Premier Morris Lemna also released its 10-year plan for NSW – a plan that has been welcomed by a range of organisations, including the NSW Farmers' Association.

"Yet, when the Member for Vaucluse Peter Debnam was asked on 2GB radio on 14 November whether or not he would produce a plan, his answer was – **"No."**

"Instead, he said the Opposition has **'sat down and said here's five or six things we're going to do.'**

"How inspiring! What vision!!

"Later in that same interview, Mr Debnam said the Coalition draws people into its website to actually look at its policies on particular topics.

"However a check of the Opposition's website today shows they have only 2 individual policies even slightly relating to drought – and neither seems to have been updated recently."

Member for Monaro Steve Whan reminded the Opposition of an ABC Radio interview back in August in which the Member for Oxley Andrew Stoner said:

'Well I think Peter Debnam understands I am sure he has got the message loud and clear from country communities that they expect a separate plan, a separate level of priority. He and I are yet to agree on that, but those negotiations and talks are coming.'

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"That was back in August. The question we put to the Nationals and Liberals in Parliament today is this – Have they agreed on anything yet? Where is their plan for NSW and their plan for drought-affected communities?

"For too long the Opposition has sat back and simply criticised without offering any alternative. The time for that is over.

"With just four months before the State Election, the people of NSW deserve to know exactly what the National/Liberal Coalition is all about.

"Why won't they detail their long-term strategies and targets – and why can't they produce an actual drought management plan, fully detailed and fully costed?

"Their failure to do either is further evidence of what a risk Peter Debnam and Andrew Stoner are for the people of NSW."

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