

Water

Water is probably the single most important challenge facing this country.

In South Australia, the water we drink, the food we eat and the health and sustainability of the Murray River system are of vital interest to all South Australians.

Less than 3% of the water that flows into South Australia via the River Murray is used by Adelaide consumers. Family First believes the way that 3% has been managed has been grossly inadequate. A full analysis of what happens to the other 97% is crucial if the interests of South Australians are to be protected.

- Family First believes South Australian families are entitled to put fresh food on the table and get clean water out of the tap at prices that do not burden low and middle income households.
- Family First believes water prices in South Australia are too high.
- Family First believes that water restrictions are unnecessary.
- Family First believes that the problems of the River Murray are not engineering problems or agricultural problems but are political problems.
- Family First believes that if the electorate through which the River Murray courses had been a marginal seat, there would be more far more action to address the myriad problems associated with the river than has previously been the case.
- Family First believes the Murray Darling Basin Plan is seriously flawed in that it does not adequately address the concerns of South Australia.
- Family First believes *“What can’t be measured, can’t be managed.”* It is vital that a verifiable measuring system which picks up every extraction point along the length of the River be implemented. Who is using the water, how much they are using and what they are using it for must be reported and made public.
- Family First believes South Australia should use all the resources at its disposal, including genuine High Court action to protect its water interests.

- Family First believes the South Australian State government should not relinquish its constitutional powers over the River Murray to any national body.