



Media Release

Senator Alan Eggleston

Liberal Senator for Western Australia

Only Labor standing in the way of the Ord's future – Eggleston

20 November 2008

All of the right ingredients are there; community support, a State Government's backing, and enough water to see the region become the largest irrigated agricultural centre in Western Australia – all the Ord River development needs now is a commitment from Labor.

WA Liberal Senator Alan Eggleston, back from a three day tour of the Ord River with Opposition Leader Malcolm Turnbull, says the region could become the new agriculture hub of the Kimberley, and indeed Western Australia, but needs to overcome the complacency of the Northern Territory and Federal Labor Governments.

“Over the past three days we have witnessed first hand the already huge successes of agriculture in the Ord area, including expanses of sandal wood, mango and banana plantations,” Senator Eggleston said.

“Stage two of the Ord River development would see up to 30,000 hectares of additional irrigated land made available to growers, opening new export markets for local farmers and encouraging new plantations such as chia and GM cotton.”

Senator Eggleston highlighted WA Premier Colin Barnett's support of the project as a huge boost to the region's future, after being neglected by the Carpenter Government for years.

“Both Colin Barnett and Malcolm Turnbull have thrown their full support behind this visionary agricultural project, which has been withering, along with Northern Australia's farming potential, without the support of the Northern Territory and Rudd Governments,”

“The people of the Kimberley want a commitment; they need a commitment, to ensure the future of this project which will greatly boost the regions capacity to grow,” the Senator said.

Senator Eggleston said the projects Native Title and Environmental approvals expired in 2012, and that a Government commitment was needed before then to ensure the full potential of the project is realised.

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