



Media Release

Senator Alan Eggleston

Liberal Senator for Western Australia

The Ord could be better than Broome - Eggleston

10 September 2008

WA Liberal Senator Alan Eggleston says the Ord River region could become the new tourism and agriculture hub of the Kimberley, but needs better support from the State and Federal Government's to get there.

"The Ord River has great potential to grow, both in tourism and agriculture, but needs more local investment and better services," Senator Eggleston said.

The Senator said the Ord River expansion project, an irrigation project to cover parts of Western Australia and the Northern Territory, is at risk of being abandoned, with the Northern Territory Government refusing to commit funding.

"The people of the Kimberley want a commitment from the State and Federal Governments to ensure the future of this project, which will greatly boost the regions capacity to grow," the Senator said.

The Senator said the projects Native Title and Environmental approvals expired in 2012, and that a Government commitment was needed before then to prevent the project being scrapped.

Senator Eggleston also highlighted the regions need for a better airport, citing that the current airport in Kununurra was insufficient to bring in large numbers of tourists, or export horticultural produce from the region.

"If the region had a better airport and better infrastructure, the tourists would come,"

"There is no doubt about that," the Senator said.

Senator Eggleston is currently touring the Ord River area as part of the Coalition's newly formed Environment and Water Committee.

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