Suggested approach for NSW water announcement

- Much of NSW is in severe drought and over the next six months many towns will be faced with extreme water pressures.
- It’s important that the NSW and Commonwealth governments work together to deliver projects that deal with the immediate town water pressures as well as solutions large scale projects for future water security.
- To prepare for future droughts NSW and the Commonwealth will agree to fast tract and construct priority large scale water projects:
  - Wyangala Dam: NSW committed to this projects during their 2019 election [s34(3)]

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Hi,

Please find feedback from [SEC=PROTECTED] on the material for Sunday. We will work something up on this for discussion.

[SEC=PROTECTED]
Cheers

From: @infrastructure.gov.au
Sent: Tuesday, 8 October 2019 9:53 AM
To: @infrastructure.gov.au
Cc: @infrastructure.gov.au
Subject: NSW projects [SEC=PROTECTED]

Hi!

s47B and s47C
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As requested
As per request for possible profiles for PMO in relation to dams being discussed with NSW Government.

Profiles are based on figures... (text cut off)

The NWIDF program is terminating program as at 30 June 2025

Profile is indicative as both projects are subject to final design and business case being completed before a construction tender can be let and timeline for construction established.

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It was agreed that it would just be the leaders.

If we added her and Littleproud, it’d just be too long.

Boss has seen the release and is largely ok with it...

No $34(3) on the release?

The $1bn figure has been fact-checked again and is correct.

PMO Media, are you ok to get this ticked off by the Premier’s office?
Good morning

Suggestions attached. The message around our investment in Wyangala to allow NSW to fund critical town water projects is important.

Happy to discuss

Hi all,

Attached is a first draft of the media release for Sunday.

I’m still waiting for the Dept to pull together some fast facts on Wyangala and which we could maybe pop in down that bottom or add to the PM’s quotes.

Will keep you updated.

Cheers,

Office of the Hon Michael McCormack MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development
Leader of The Nationals
Federal Member for Riverina

MG41, Parliament House | Canberra ACT 2600
Suite 2, 11-15 Fitzmaurice Street | Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

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Contacts:
Prime Minister’s office: Press Office, (02) 6277 7700
Deputy Prime Minister’s office: Ashley Gardiner, 0429 063 494
Premier’s Office: Georgina Kentwell, 0427 206 308
Contacts:

Prime Minister’s office: Press Office, (02) 6277 7700
Deputy Prime Minister’s office: Georgina Kentwell, 0427 206 308
Premier’s Office: Ashley Gardiner, 0429 063 494
Deputy Premier’s Office: Georgina Kentwell, 0427 206 308

Press Office of the Hon Scott Morrison MP, Prime Minister, Canberra
No worries

From: CALLACHOR Damian
Sent: Friday, 11 October 2019 6:39 PM
To: CALLACHOR Damian
Cc: 
Subject: Re: DPM to Prime Minister NSW Water Projects.docx [SEC=PROTECTED]

Thank you both

Good to go.

Cheers

Hi DC,

As discussed with – please see updated letter attached.

Regards

Sorry, should have clarified, this should be done as a new sentence at the end of the letter before the par that talks about who the letter is copied to...

Cheers
Thanks

If you could send through the final signed version please.

Cheers

From: "CALLACHOR Damian" <Damian.Callachor@infrastructure.gov.au>
Date: Friday, 11 October 2019 at 2:53:58 pm
To: "CALLACHOR Damian" <Damian.Callachor@infrastructure.gov.au>
Cc: "CALLACHOR Damian" <Damian.Callachor@infrastructure.gov.au>
Subject: DPM to Prime Minister NSW Water Projects.docx [SEC=PROTECTED]
From: @health.gov.au
Sent: Wednesday, 16 October 2019 7:58 AM
To: RE: Draft - Note For Today - for rls 7.50am [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Sent them to not sure exactly why because the story hasn’t run on ABC AM.

From: @aph.gov.au
Sent: Wednesday, 16 October 2019 7:46 AM
To: FW: Draft - Note For Today - for rls 7.50am [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

They your lines below on GPs – or is getting them from elsewhere??

From: @aph.gov.au
Sent: Wednesday, 16 October 2019 7:41 AM
To: CALLACHOR Damian <Damian.Callachor@infrastructure.gov.au>; @infrastructure.gov.au>; @infrastructure.gov.au>; @infrastructure.gov.au>; @infrastructure.gov.au>; @infrastructure.gov.au>; @infrastructure.gov.au>; @aph.gov.au; @dva.gov.au; @industry.gov.au>; @dfat.gov.au>; @agriculture.gov.au

Subject: Draft - Note For Today - for rls 7.50am
Further billion dollar investment in dams:

- The Liberal and Nationals’ Government has committed significant further support for regional New South Wales communities facing hardship due to drought after agreeing to jointly fund with the NSW Government a water infrastructure package worth more than $1 billion for the state.
- We are delivering the funding needed to fast-track construction of dams and other critical water infrastructure.
- This announcement means the Australian and NSW Governments will work together to deliver:
  - a $650 million upgrade of Wyangala Dam in the state’s Central West, and
  - Our investment in these priority large-scale water infrastructure projects will free up NSW funding to allow them to progress critical town water projects across the state.
- We are putting $575 million on the table in a 50/50 funding partnership with the NSW Government to get these projects underway as soon as possible, bolstering water supply and security across NSW.
- We are getting all the necessary work done to streamline matters such as environmental assessments so these two priority dam projects can be shovel-ready in 2021.
Hi Damian,

We have checked water infrastructure numbers and suggest the changes in red to capture recent NSW commitments in the ‘plan’ and a couple of typos/missing words.

One pager is ok – do you need acronym for NWIDF as only place used on page?

Docs look great.

Managing our water resources

We promised during the election to develop a comprehensive water infrastructure plan to increase water supply and reliability to make Australia’s water supply network more resilient to drought and we’re delivering.

- The $100 million National Water Grid Authority was up and running on 1 October 2019
- The Authority will bring together the world’s best science to identify and plan the next generation of water infrastructure

The government is calling on the states and territories to work with the Authority to establish the national plan and priority project list so that we can get bulldozers on the ground to build the right water infrastructure in the right place. This will better connect our water storage and supply grid to provide secure and affordable water to increase the resilience of regional communities in periods of drought.

As part of the government’s plan to support farmers and regional communities manage through drought, we’re delivering water infrastructure and we’ll continue to get shovels in the ground on vital projects.

We have $3.5 billion to build dams, weirs and pipelines through the:

- $1.5 billion National Water Infrastructure Development Fund (NWIDF)
- $2 billion National Water Infrastructure Loan Facility (NWILF)
Building New Water Infrastructure
– commitments:

A/g General Manager
National Water Grid Authority Taskforce | Regional Development and Local Government Division
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development
GPO Box 594, Canberra ACT 2601

@infrastructure.gov.au | www.infrastructure.gov.au

The Department proudly acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Australia, and their continuing connections to the land, waters and communities. We pay our respects to them and to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Great Cities. Strong Regions.
Connecting Australians.
For Official Use Only

Thanks so much!

Suggest changes as below...

Cheers
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From: @pm.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 17 October 2019 4:12 PM
To: @infrastructure.gov.au>; CALLACHOR Damian
Subject: FW: 8p and 1p drought brochures [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL
Hi – grateful urgent fact check on the water components. Trying to get finalised for the backbenchers and need to print at 4.30 – sorry for the short notice.

From: @agriculture.gov.au
Sent: Thursday, 17 October 2019 3:50 PM
To: @pm.gov.au
Subject: FW: 8p and 1p drought brochures [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Office of the Hon. David Littleproud MP
Minister for Water Resources, Drought, Rural Finance, Natural Disaster and Emergency Management
Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600 Australia

From: @aph.gov.au
Sent: Thursday, 17 October 2019 3:45 PM
To: @agriculture.gov.au; @agriculture.gov.au
Cc: @agriculture.gov.au
Subject: 8p and 1p drought brochures [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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From: HALLAM Diana; CALLACHOR Damian
Sent: Wednesday, 6 November 2019 5:43 PM
To: HALLAM Diana; CALLACHOR Damian
Cc: BACON Rachel
Subject: RE: URGENT FACT CHECK/INPUT: drought measures for announcement tomorrow

Thanks
I'll get to update. The figure for the loans needs to be corrected. Damian will come back to you directly on this.

From: CALLACHOR Damian <Damian.Callachor@infrastructure.gov.au>
Date: Wednesday, 6 November 2019 at 5:26:14 pm
To: CALLACHOR Damian ; MCRANDLE Brendan
Cc: BACON Rachel
Subject: Fwd: URGENT FACT CHECK/INPUT: drought measures for announcement tomorrow

Hi
Are you able to verify what these figures are?
Boss is really keen on getting the yellow numbers. I think the red bits are still the unknowns/need checking.

From: "@pm.gov.au"
Date: Wednesday, 6 November 2019 at 4:53:14 pm
To: "@finance.gov.au", "CALLACHOR Damian"
Subject: RE: URGENT FACT CHECK/INPUT: drought measures for announcement tomorrow [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
The SoR figures are an estimate of what we expected loans would be at 30 June, so that might explain why it's slightly different to the dept's actual figure.

From: CALLACHOR Damian <Damian.Callachor@infrastructure.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 6 November 2019 4:17 PM
To: @pm.gov.au>; @pm.gov.au>
Cc: @finance.gov.au>
Subject: RE: URGENT FACT CHECK/INPUT: drought measures for announcement tomorrow [SEC=PROTECTED]

No worries I've asked our Department to confirm the figures.

I'll revert shortly.

Cheers

From: @pm.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 6 November 2019 4:14 PM
To: @pm.gov.au>; CALLACHOR Damian <Damian.Callachor@infrastructure.gov.au>
Cc: @finance.gov.au>
Subject: RE: URGENT FACT CHECK/INPUT: drought measures for announcement tomorrow [SEC=PROTECTED]

Damian – the Budget papers show Can you please confirm how much has come out of the National Water Infrastructure Loan Facility to date.
From: CALLACHOR Damian <Damian.Callachor@infrastructure.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 6 November 2019 3:48 PM
To: @pm.gov.au>
Subject: RE: URGENT FACT CHECK/INPUT: drought measures for announcement tomorrow [SEC=PROTECTED]

PROTECTED
From: CALLACHOR Damian
Sent: Wednesday, 6 November 2019 3:40 PM
To: @pm.gov.au
Subject: RE: URGENT FACT CHECK/INPUT: drought measures for announcement tomorrow [SEC=PROTECTED]

• The NWDIF (Fund) was announced in the White Papers on Developing Northern Australia and Agricultural Competitiveness in 2015.

• The National Water Infrastructure Loan Facility was announced in the 2016-2017 Budget.
  o On 1 July 2018 the Australian Government established the Regional Investment Corporation (RIC) to manage the day to day delivery of the Loan Facility.

• To date, the Government has conducted:
  o one round of expressions of interest for feasibility study funding from the Fund (2016),
  o three rounds of expressions of interest for capital funding from the Fund and loan funding from the Loan Facility (two in 2017 and one 2019); and

From: CALLACHOR Damian <Damian.Callachor@infrastructure.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 6 November 2019 2:05 PM
To: CALLACHOR Damian <Damian.Callachor@infrastructure.gov.au>; @pm.gov.au; @pm.gov.au; @protected.agriculture.gov.au; @pm.gov.au; @pm.gov.au; @pm.gov.au; @protected.agriculture.gov.au; @infrastructure.gov.au; @pm.gov.au; @pm.gov.au; @pm.gov.au; @protected.agriculture.gov.au; @treasury.gov.au; @infrastructure.gov.au
Cc: PMO - Senior Media Team <@pm.gov.au>; @pm.gov.au; @protected.agriculture.gov.au; @pm.gov.au; @pm.gov.au; @pm.gov.au; @pm.gov.au; @pm.gov.au; @pm.gov.au; @pm.gov.au; @pm.gov.au; @protected.agriculture.gov.au; @infrastructure.gov.au; @pm.gov.au; @pm.gov.au; @pm.gov.au; @protected.agriculture.gov.au; @infrastructure.gov.au
Subject: RE: URGENT FACT CHECK/INPUT: drought measures for announcement tomorrow [SEC=PROTECTED]

Thanks everyone – just waiting for water and confirmation of how I’ve laid out the DCP money.
Support changes.

From: @pm.gov.au
Sent: Wednesday, 6 November 2019 1:57 PM
To: @pm.gov.au; @protected.agriculture.gov.au; CALLACHOR Damian
Cc: PMO - Senior Media Team; @pm.gov.au; @protected.agriculture.gov.au; @treasury.gov.au; @infrastructure.gov.au
Subject: RE: URGENT FACT CHECK/INPUT: drought measures for announcement tomorrow [SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET]

Few changes my end.

Hi

The attached contains the edits we discussed - just let me know if you need anything else.

Best,
Good morning – fact sheets for tomorrow’s announcements attached for your review/comment/fact check please.

– also need to see the updated Drought Plan with the measures from this morning included.

– please double check if you’re happy with the way I’ve laid out the DCP stuff.

Comments back by 12:30 please.

Senior Adviser Agriculture
Office of the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP
MG 8, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600
s34(1)(c), s47B and 47C
s34(1)(c), s47B and 47C
s34(1)(c), s47B and 47C
s34(1)(c), s47B and 47C
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s34(1)(c), s47B and 47C
s34(1)(c), 47B and 47C
s34(1)(c), 47B and 47C
s34(1)(c), 47B and 47C
s34(1)(c), 47B and 47C
s34(1)(c), 47B and 47C
Office of the Hon Mark Coulton MP
Minister for Regional Services, Decentralisation, and Local Government
Assistant Trade & Investment Minister
(02) 6277 7495 | mark.coulton@dfat.gov.au | @markcoultonmp

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From: CALLACHOR Damian  
Sent: Wednesday, 18 December 2019 2:24 PM  
To: CALLACHOR Damian  
Subject: RE: Deputy Prime Minister - Transcript - Sky News Interview in Merimbula - 18 December 2019 [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

UNOFFICIAL

Yes, went to air a while ago.

The host just said that it is going to air again during the current program.

They also had brief comments from his presser at the Airport.

Regards,

UNOFFICIAL

From: CALLACHOR Damian  
Sent: Wednesday, 18 December 2019 2:22 PM  
To: CALLACHOR Damian  
Subject: Re: Deputy Prime Minister - Transcript - Sky News Interview in Merimbula - 18 December 2019 [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

UNOFFICIAL

Has this gone to air yet?

UNOFFICIAL

From: "@infrastructure.gov.au"  
Date: Wednesday, 18 December 2019 at 2:07:08 pm  
Subject: Deputy Prime Minister - Transcript - Sky News Interview in Merimbula - 18 December 2019 [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

UNOFFICIAL

The Hon Michael McCormack MP  
Deputy Prime Minister  
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development
SKY NEWS INTERVIEW WITH ELIZA EDWARDS
18 December 2019

E&OE

Subjects: Farming; Bushfires; Drought; Review of the Basin Plan

ELIZA EDWARDS:

A report from ABARES today says that profits have dropped 22 per cent over the past two decades for crop farmers as a result of climate change. Is this loss of income the new normal for farmers?

MICHAEL MCCORMACK:

Well it’s going to have an impact on farmers’ profitability going forward. They need to look at that when they are deciding what they’re actually going to do on their farms. And I know there has been a lot of diversification in farming in the past few decades. But what I don’t want farmers to do, and particularly those school leavers who yesterday in New South Wales would have received their High School Certificate results, to think that there’s not profit to be made in farms, to think that there’s no future in agriculture because there is. And the Australian Federal Liberal Nationals Government is making sure that we increase farming and agriculture by $60 billion to $100 billion industry by 2030. Now I know we share that view with the National Farmers Federation and other farmers’ organisations, whether it’s AgForce in Queensland, VFF in Victoria, New South Wales Farmers and others. We want to make sure that we grow agriculture to a $100 billion industry and we can and we will. And we will on the back of hard work and innovation technology, that’s all coming into farming. And yes, whilst I appreciate that profits have taken a hit, we’ve had a number of severe droughts over the past 20 years. And whilst I appreciate ABARES doesn’t give out these statistics lightly, there is a big future in agriculture.

ELIZA EDWARDS:

But it is harder to make a living off the land right now?

MICHAEL MCCORMACK:

Well true. But there are some farmers as well who are making good money and my father, my late father Lance who farmed properties at Marrar and Brucedale for decades always told me that farming was a nine year cycle; three years very good years, three years average and three years not so good and so it is cyclical and there is money to be made out of farming.

ELIZA EDWARDS:

With no rain forecast until April next year, this drought is going to get worse over the summer. Farmers can’t wait until the May budget surely. Are the Nationals going to push for more support and more stimulus before then?

MICHAEL MCCORMACK:
Well I’m out and about in a regional community as are all my Nationals colleagues and as are many of my Liberal colleagues. We know that the drought is taking its toll. We know that there's more work to be done. Of course as the forecast does not look good, we'll be monitoring the situation, we'll be taking of course those soundings from public hall meetings from just getting out and talking to farmers over the farm fence, over the farm gate as we do all the time, as I've done over the last couple of days back in my own Riverina electorate. We take those soundings, we go back to Canberra and yes we do lobby for extension to drought assistance. And I'm here with Andrew Constance today, the New South Wales Minister. And we’re working together as New South Wales is, as Commonwealth governments-

ELIZA EDWARDS:

Before the next budget though?

MICHAEL MCCORMACK:

Well look we’ll see how the situation is. We’ve already put more than $8 million of assistance on the table and if we need to do more we will.

ELIZA EDWARDS:

Okay. Will the Government engage with former fire chiefs planning a summit, a national summit on bushfires and climate change after the current bushfire season?

MICHAEL MCCORMACK:

Well of course, we always engage with everybody who's got an interest in these sorts of things and I appreciate that many people, not just Greg Mullins and his crowd but many others are also coming forward with ideas and ways of how we can better manage bushfires in the future. But also we need to take on board those people who are in the current positions and those people who are presently occupying positions of authority to make sure that we work with them first to combat these fires. We're doing just that and of course it's not just climate change, there's many reasons why these bushfires have occurred. In South Australia for instance there was a pile of horse manure that self-combusted, there's been lightning strikes, but there's also been many, many people who've actually started these fires. Already 56 arrests and potentially, the police are looking at many others with a view to actually laying arson charges and that's unfortunate.

ELIZA EDWARDS:

Sure. But the land's going up because it's so dry.

MICHAEL MCCORMACK:

And indeed it is. We're in the middle of a- many people say one of the worst droughts they've ever seen. In fact, one of the worst droughts in history. And of course that doesn't help when you've got a dry tinder load, when you've got laws that in some cases make it difficult to get rid of that load, that fuel load, that fire load before the season. That has made it difficult for some people to actually get in and do the fire breaks and those sorts of things. So of course it's dry and that's also going to lead to bushfires starting.
The ex-fires say that they’re filling a leadership vacuum in Canberra because the Government won’t talk about fires and climate change. What’s your response to that?

MICHAEL MCCORMACK:

Well we’re addressing the fires, we’re ensuring that we’ve got the right resourcing and the right people to put the fires out. That’s a critically important point at the moment.

ELIZA EDWARDS:

But climate change?

MICHAEL MCCORMACK:

Well of course climate change is an issue. But as I say again, so is arson, so is natural events that are not climate change and are not arson that are also creating these fires. So there’s a number of things that are creating these fires. The important thing is at the moment, is that we’ve put them out.

ELIZA EDWARDS:

But Deputy PM you can see the smoke haze around us right now caused by these fires. It’s what everyone’s talking about right now, it’s the water cooler conversation that’s being had.

MICHAEL MCCORMACK:

And we’ve had these smoke hazes before. We’ve had bushfires before. We’ve had droughts before. And rest assured, while some people are out there saying it will never rain again and the rivers will never flow again – I know Tim Flannery has been on that case for many years – the fact is we will, once again, in the not too distant future, be back into a flood situation. And that is Australia. It is a land of droughts and flooding rains and that’s just the way it is. Yes, these fires are severe. Yes, in some cases, they are unprecedented but in other cases, they are what happens in Australia.

ELIZA EDWARDS:

Have these fires been a tipping point in terms of people’s views on climate change?

MICHAEL MCCORMACK:

Well, a lot of people, yes, believe the science. A lot of people do. But there are some who do say that, again, climate change is not causing all of these fires. You know, when you’ve got people running around starting fires, you can’t blame that on climate change. Yes, you can blame the dry conditions in some degree on climate change. Yes, you can. We are in the middle of a terrible drought but we’ve had droughts before. We’ve had fires before. And we’ll get through this. But the important thing is for those people who’ve lost houses, for those people who’ve lost loved ones, they just want the fires put out. They want their area to be safe again and they want the smoke haze to blow away. And it will.

ELIZA EDWARDS:

Parents are taking their children to hospitals with respiratory conditions right now. Can you understand why they’re anxious?
MICHAEL MCCORMACK:

I can. Absolutely. I’ve got- you know, I’ve had young children. They’re now thankfully grown up. But the fact is, yes, of course. Your children are everything and I appreciate that people want the very best for them. And if they have respiratory conditions, if they are wheezing and they are suffering in these conditions, then the best place for them is to take them to emergency ward.

ELIZA EDWARDS:

And the fact that there’s a massive heatwave gripping the country right now. Heat records are going to be tumbling. Do you think- do you think …

MICHAEL MCCORMACK:

Again, it is December and it is summer. So we’ve had- and I know in my own home town on the weekend, they’ve already called the cricket off. It’s going to be 45 degrees. Again, I say we’ve had temperatures that high before in December and in summer. Yes, we are experiencing a heatwave and yes, we are experiencing terrible fires, but it’s not as if it hasn’t happened before.

ELIZA EDWARDS:

But is climate change making these events worse than they’ve ever been?

MICHAEL MCCORMACK:

Yes.

ELIZA EDWARDS:

Worse than they’ve ever been before?

MICHAEL MCCORMACK:

Well, climate change is a factor.

ELIZA EDWARDS:

Labor frontbencher Stephen Jones tweeted: what would Scott Morrison said if Julia Gillard had taken a holiday while bushfires burn through New South Wales? Labor accusing him of lacking judgment. What do you say to the criticism that Scott Morrison shouldn’t have gone away right now?

MICHAEL MCCORMACK:

Well, I’m sure Stephen Jones will probably go on a holiday at some stage too and I’m sure Anthony Albanese will as well. I saw him criticising the Prime Minister yesterday where he’s entitled to a holiday.

ELIZA EDWARDS:
Is there a risk that the review of the water sharing arrangements under the Basin Plan won't be possible without Victoria and South Australia?

MICHAEL MCCORMACK:

Well, we're going to try and work through that. I appreciate the ministers met yesterday. I appreciate the fact that it was an important meeting. We need to make sure that we get through this situation with the states on board. Thankfully, none of the states have pulled the pin on the Basin Plan. They all appreciate that this has taken a long time to get where we are at the moment. The Basin Plan is not perfect. But it's what we have in the Federal Parliament. It's what the states signed up to and agreed to and we need to work through it. Again, we need to, of course, wait until it rains again. We, of course, also on the march to building more water infrastructure. And I'm so pleased that just in recent weeks, we've announced Dungowan Dam in New South Wales, an extension to the wall at Wyangala Dam near Cowra and Forbes. They are going to make such a critical difference for future droughts. And of course, we've got $8 billion on the table to get through this drought, and including a $5 million Future Drought Fund.

ELIZA EDWARDS:

But without New South Wales contributing any more to the 450 gigalitres needed for environmental flows, isn’t that essentially them pulling the pin on the Basin Plan?

MICHAEL MCCORMACK:

Well, that 450 gigalitres, which was signed away at Goolwa in 2012 by Julia Gillard, that's the genesis of that 450 gigalitres. That was always predicated, thanks to the Liberal-Nationals Government when we got into power, on there being a triple-bottom line approach for those 450 gigalitres. So, if there's not a complete sharing of social and economic and environmental outcomes for that water, then that water won't and can't be delivered. So it has to ensure that water will never be delivered if it's going to have a social and economic downturn for those communities which rely on river water, which rely on irrigated water. And so, to that end, it was always going to be very difficult to deliver.

Yes, of course, we need to make sure that there's water for the environment but we also need to make sure that there's water for our irrigated farmers. And at the moment, with the state allocations, some of those communities around Deniliquin, Mildura, they've got very little and in some areas, none at all. Our cotton farmers in northern New South Wales, who get the blame for a lot haven't had a water allocation for four years. So let's not forget that. So there are farmers doing it tough but it will rain again. There will be water in the Murray-Darling system again and we look forward to that.

ELIZA EDWARDS:

Just on your portfolio, does Jetstar have an obligation to its customers to sit down and work through this toxic pay dispute with unions, and are you confident it won't disrupt travel plans for people over Christmas?

MICHAEL MCCORMACK:

Well, yes. I think there needs to be a situation there where they all come together in an amicable way and resolve this situation. Of course, it always happens at this time of year too that some people decide to disrupt the travel plans of others, and that's unfortunate. But it would be good if they could come around the table and reach a good resolution so that people can get on with their travel plans over the Christmas-New Year period.
ELIZA EDWARDS:

Are you optimistic that's going to happen?

MICHAEL MCCORMACK:

Well, I’m always optimistic about all things happening. I’m a positive person.

ELIZA EDWARDS:

President Trump is on the verge of being impeached. What do you make of what's happening in US politics right now?

MICHAEL MCCORMACK:

Look, I'm worrying about Australia. The bushfires, the drought. Got enough on my mind being Acting Prime Minister. We'll let that situation play out in America. We'll see what happens.

ELIZA EDWARDS:

Thanks so much.

MICHAEL MCCORMACK:

Okay. No worries at all.

Media contacts:

UNOFFICIAL
From: MILNES Gayle  
Sent: Monday, 20 January 2020 8:48 AM  
To: CALLACHOR Damian  
Cc: SPENCE Pip; SPENCE Pip  
Subject: [SEC=PROTECTED]  

Hi Damien,

Cheers,
Gayle

---

From: CALLACHOR Damian  
Sent: Sunday, 19 January 2020 3:10 PM  
To: MILNES Gayle; SPENCE Pip  
Cc: SPENCE Pip; SPENCE Pip  
Subject: [SEC=PROTECTED]  

Thanks Gayle

Appreciate the update – will wait to see if there’s anything of interest when I see the Subs in the morning.

Cheers, Damian
Hi Damian and Pip,

Cheers,
Gayle
Hi Damian

$s34(3)$ and $47C$

$s22$
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Hi Damo,

Kind regards,

Media Adviser
Office of the Hon Michael McCormack MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development
Leader of The Nationals
Federal Member for Riverina

MG41, Parliament House | Canberra ACT 2600
Suite 2, 11-15 Fitzmaurice Street | Wagga Wagga NSW 2650
Good morning,

Please find below text for the NSW Nationals communique regarding yesterday's meeting. The Chairman has requested your office review and provide feedback/approve as a matter of priority.

Thank you,

s47F
Hi Damian and 

Happy to discuss further 

Cheers 

Brendan
To: The Hon Michael McCormack MP (for decision)  
cc: Mr Simon Atkinson, Secretary  
cc: Mr Brendan McRandle PSM, Deputy Secretary

National Water Infrastructure Development Fund - NSW projects

Action required by: 23 March 2020

Reason: To enable negotiations to progress in a timely manner

**Recommendations:**

1. That you **note** the letters at **Attachment A** and **Attachment B** from the Hon Melinda Pavey MP, NSW Minister for Water, Property and Housing.

2. That you **sign** the letter at **Attachment C** to Minister Pavey, advising that you will consider her proposal, but that further work is required before an Australian Government decision.

---

The Hon Michael McCormack MP  
Date: 24/3/2020

Comments:

---

**Key Points:**

---

1 The content of the two letters is largely the same. The National Water Grid Authority understands from NSW Government officials that it was only intended for one version of the letter to be sent, but unintentionally both versions were signed and sent by Minister Pavey.
2. The original Australian Government commitments to the Yand Wyangala dam projects were on the basis of meeting 50 per cent of the upfront capital costs through a mixture of grant funding ($284 million) and concessional loan funding ($284 million).

a. This effectively translates into a 25:75 Commonwealth-NSW funding split (once NSW has repaid the loan).

Next Steps:
7. We are also continuing to work directly with NSW officials to better understand these matters so all three projects can be contracted through a bilateral schedule to the National Partnership Agreement as soon as possible. We will brief you separately on potential options for the way forward, once additional information has been provided by NSW officials.

**Stakeholder Implications:**

8. With public statements having been made by the NSW Government about the early commencement of construction and completion of the capital projects, a need may arise to actively manage stakeholder expectations. The NWGA will continue to work closely with NSW officials in this regard.

a. Public statements since that time have been in the vein that the Australian Government is partnering 50:50 with the NSW Government on these projects. However, it has also publicly been made clear on a number of occasions (including through Senate Estimates) that this included 50 per cent loan funding (which in effect would mean a 25 per cent Australian Government contribution once the loan was repaid).

---

**Name:** Mark Darrough  
**Position:** General Manager  
**Division:** National Water Grid Authority  
**Ph:** 02 6274 6019  
**Date:** 19 March 2020
s22 and part s47B
From: DARROUGH Mark  
Sent: Tuesday, 16 June 2020 11:03 AM  
To:  
Cc: SOUTHWELL Malcolm ; MCRANDLE Brendan  
Subject: FW: water projects [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]  
Importance: High

Hi

The list of 10 projects is from s34(3) and we understand was at least in part informed by the 2018 WaterNSW infrastructure options study (report also attached). The attached email chain has the most recent information on the priority or otherwise of the projects around the time of the announcement of the Wyangala s22 announcement. We’re not aware of there being any subsequent discussion or request for funding for the other projects on the list. A quick chat with NSW officials indicated the other projects were not currently on their radar as priority projects.

s22

Regards

Mark
Hi Malcolm,

Could your team please provide a quick snap shot on the projects contained in this article.

Following on from QT yesterday, I suspect some of these projects might have questions asked about them.

Happy to discuss

Thanks

Water project on recovery wishlist
By Olivia Caisley Richard Ferguson, The Australian Tuesday 16th June 2020 at 12:00am | 616 words, page 2, 315cm²

The NSW government is pushing for commonwealth funding to develop a $100m water security project in the bushfire-ravaged Eurobodalla Shire on the south coast as the Morrison government moves to fast-track more nationbuilding infrastructure.

Scott Morrison said on Monday he would announce a further 10 fast-tracked projects in coming weeks after unveiling plans to accelerate the inland rail line from Brisbane to Melbourne and the Marinus electricity link from the mainland to Tasmania.

The Eurobodalla project, submitted for assessment to the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund in early 2019, has requested 50 per cent co-funding from the federal government and is aimed at improving water resilience.

NSW Water Minister Melinda Pavey wrote to federal Water Resources Minister David Littleproud this year requesting extra funding for the Eurobodalla project in the regional NSW electorate of Eden-Monaro, where a byelection will be held on July 4.

Former Nationals leaders John Anderson and Mark Vaile, both of whom held the infrastructure portfolio, have called on the Prime Minister to focus the next round of fast-tracked projects on boosting regional Australia and improving energy and freight systems.

Mr Anderson said a national water grid had to be high on the priority list, and would have “very desirable economic, social and environmental benefits”.

Mr Vaile said the next 10 projects should be shovel-ready and evenly spread across the country.

“The good thing about the Olympic Dam extension and the iron ore projects in WA suggest the government is going for projects that will have an immediate impact and any future priority projects have to hit the ground as quickly as possible,” he said.

As well as the Eurobodalla project, the NSW government has identified 62 town water supply proposals in bushfire-impacted areas, with preliminary analysis suggesting they would require a total investment of between $250m and $300m. “Each project could create local economic stimulus as well as making a real difference to service levels in these bushfire and drought-impacted communities,” Ms Pavey wrote.

In August last year, Ms Pavey also wrote to Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack with a wishlist of 10 projects, including the Mole River, Dungowan and Wyangala dam projects, which have since received funding.

Among the suggested projects are raising the Murrumbidgee dam wall, installing the Tumut pipeline, raising the Brogo dam and augmenting mid-Murrumbidgee storage at Bundidgerry.
Global resources giant BHP on Monday applauded the government’s move to accelerate the proposed expansion of its Olympic Dam mine in South Australia.

“We welcome government efforts to make major project approval processes more efficient and provide greater certainty for investment,” a spokesman said.

Fortescue Metals chief Elizabeth Gaines said a clearer infrastructure approvals process would boost the $79bn iron ore industry.

Mr Morrison on Monday said joint assessment teams would immediately begin work on accelerating 15 priority infrastructure projects worth more than $72bn in public and private investment.

These include the inland rail project from Melbourne to Brisbane, the Marinus undersea electricity link between Tasmania and Victoria, the Olympic Dam extension in South Australia, emergency town water projects in NSW and WA road, rail and iron ore projects. A further $1.5bn will go to smaller projects, including $500m for road safety upgrades.

Infrastructure Australia’s May list of priorities included the now fast-tracked inland rail from Melbourne to Brisbane and the Marinus interconnector electricity link between Tasmania and Victoria.

PRIME PROJECTS

Infrastructure Australia’s high priority list, May 2020

NSW

• Chullora junction upgrade • Nowra bridge

VICTORIA

• Melbourne rail network upgrades • Outer Metropolitan Ring Road and E6 corridor

QUEENSLAND

• Pacific Highway upgrade • Port of Brisbane freight rail connection

WA

• Metronet Morley-Ellenbrook line • Mitchell and Kwinana freeways upgrade

Senior Advisor
Office of the Hon Michael McCormack MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development
Leader of The Nationals
Federal Member for Riverina
UNOFFICIAL
From: @pm.gov.au
Sent: Thursday, 9 July 2020 1:08 PM
To: CALLACHOR Damian <Damian.Callachor@infrastructure.gov.au>
Cc: @infrastructure.gov.au; @infrastructure.gov.au; @infrastructure.gov.au; @pm.gov.au
Subject: PROTECTED//CABINET

PROTECTED//CABINET

Cheers

Senior Adviser – Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Cities and Sport
Office of the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP
MG 8, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

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From: CALLACHOR Damian
Sent: Thursday, 9 July 2020 2:22 PM
To: CALLACHOR Damian
Cc: PROTECTED, SH:CABINET

PROTECTED, SH:CABINET
From: CALLACHOR Damian
Sent: Thursday, 9 July 2020 1:53 PM
To: @pm.gov.au>
Cc: @infrastructure.gov.au>; s47F @infrastructure.gov.au>; @pm.gov.au>
s34(3) s22

PROTECTED

Thanks

s34(3)

Cheers

PROTECTED

From: @pm.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 9 July 2020 1:08 PM
To: CALLACHOR Damian <Damian.Callachor@infrastructure.gov.au>
Cc: @infrastructure.gov.au>; @pm.gov.au>
s34(1) and (3)
Hi Damo

Minister Ley’s office may also contact you to discuss.

Cheers

Senior Adviser – Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Cities and Sport
Office of the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP
MG 8, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

________________________________________

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________________________________________

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Hi

Thanks and happy to discuss

Office of the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP
MG 8, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

@pm.gov.au
From: INFORMATION
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 2:08 PM
To: MCU - MinCorro
Cc: MCU - MinCorro <@pmc.gov.au>
Subject: [SEC=OFFICIAL] OFFICIAL

Afternoon,

Please find attached correspondence for handling advice.

Regards,

| Ministerial Correspondence Officer
Ministerial Correspondence and Briefs | Ministerial and Parliamentary Support Branch

From: DLO
Sent: Wednesday, 29 July 2020 3:10 PM
To: MCU - MinCorro
Cc: DLO ; s47F
Subject: [SEC=OFFICIAL] OFFICIAL

Hi

Please rego to IIE.

Cheers,

| Departmental Liaison Officer
Office of the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP

From: MCU - MinCorro <s47E(d) @pmc.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 2:08 PM
To: s47E(d) @pm.gov.au>
Cc: MCU - MinCorro <s47E(d) @pmc.gov.au>
Subject: [SEC=OFFICIAL] OFFICIAL

Afternoon,

Please find attached correspondence for handling advice.

Regards,

| Ministerial Correspondence Officer
Ministerial Correspondence and Briefs | Ministerial and Parliamentary Support Branch
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s34(1)(c) and 47B
We’ll come back to you on this.

Cheers

Brendan
From: MCRANDLE Brendan
Sent: Friday, 31 July 2020 8:23 AM
To: CALLACHOR Damian
Cc: WALL Ruth; SOUTHWELL Malcolm; DARROUGH Mark; DLO McCormack;
Subject: [SEC=OFFICIAL] s34(1)(c) and 47B and 47C

Cheers
Brendan

From: CALLACHOR Damian
Sent: Friday, 31 July 2020 8:19 AM
To: MCRANDLE Brendan
Cc: WALL Ruth; SOUTHWELL Malcolm; DARROUGH Mark; DLO McCormack;
Subject: [SEC=OFFICIAL] s34(1)(c) and 47B and 47C

Thanks Brendan

From: MCRANDLE Brendan <Brendan.McRandle@infrastructure.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 30 July 2020 5:57 PM
To: CALLACHOR Damian <Damian.Callachor@infrastructure.gov.au>
Cc: WALL Ruth <Ruth.Wall@infrastructure.gov.au>; SOUTHWELL Malcolm <Malcolm.Southwell@infrastructure.gov.au>; DARROUGH Mark <Mark.Darrough@infrastructure.gov.au>; DLO McCormack <dlo.mccormack@infrastructure.gov.au>; [SEC=OFFICIAL]
s34(1)(c) and 47B and 47C

Cheers

Brendan