



Labor



Terri Butler MP

Shadow Minister for the Environment and Water
Member for Griffith

The Hon Keith Pitt MP
Minister for Resources and Water
Po Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

By email: Keith.Pitt.MP@aph.gov.au

Dear Minister

I refer to the May 2018 Murray Darling Basin Plan commitments package.

As you know, Labor negotiated with your government, in good faith, to secure the commitments in that package.

One of those commitments was that the government would deliver \$40 million of water to First Nations in the Murray Darling Basin. This funding was to be delivered over four years from 2018, but to date, not one dollar of it has been delivered.

The Northern Basin Aboriginal Nations (NBAN) and the Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations (MLDRIN) wrote to you regarding this important matter on 1 April 2021, urging your government to deliver on your promise and expend the \$40 million.

It has now been several months since this issue was raised with you, and I have been advised that you are yet to respond to NBAN and MLDRIN's letter.

Further, it appears you are yet to agree to a funding model to expend the fund, despite receiving proposals from NBAN and MLDRIN which have received support from key stakeholders.

I ask that you advise;

- when the \$40 million for First Nations in the Murray Darling will be expended;
- why the government has failed to agree on a model to deliver the funds; and
- when NBAN and MLDRIN might expect a response to their letter.

**ON YOUR
SIDE.**

(07) 3397 1674

Terri.Butler.MP@aph.gov.au

76 Old Cleveland Rd, Stones Corner Qld 4120 (PO Box 737, Coorparoo 4151)

www.terributlermp.com [@terrimbutler](https://twitter.com/terrimbutler) facebook.com/butler4griffith [@terributlermp](https://instagram.com/terributlermp)

The Hon Keith Pitt MP

This significant delay in the delivery of a commitment your government made to the nation is deeply concerning. I ask that you respond as a matter of urgency.

Yours faithfully,

Terri Butler MP
Member for Griffith
21 October 2021