

23rd November 2010

Tony Catanzariti – Local Labor MLC
Legislative Council, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney, NSW, 2000

Dear Mr Catanzariti,

My Dad committed suicide almost one year ago on the 19th December 2009.

Even though he was almost 83 years of age he was often mistaken for being much younger than his years because he was such a physically active man.

Dad was semi retired but he still played a very active role in the operation of the family farm. He was a proud rice farmer, and it was his job to check the water levels and to make sure it wasn't being wasted.

Dad became very depressed about 4 years ago when he was made to drain the water off his established rice crop and then watch as it gradually dried up and died.

He received no compensation for the losses he incurred at the time such as the cost of the seed, the fertilizer, the fuel to work the land and to plant the crop, the cost of labour involved and, to top it all off, he still had to pay for the water which he wasn't allowed to keep.

If there had been an alternate water supply, this would never have happened. What a waste of a prospective food resource this was!!! Not to mention the mental torture my father endured as a result.

Why isn't something being done to establish a secure water supply for our farmers? Why aren't plans being made NOW to build new dams or to pipe water from the areas of high rainfall?

Australia is a land which could become the food bowl of the world if only people in authority had enough guts to do something about it.

Stop the water buy-backs. This is not the answer to the problem! We need a secure water supply source.

Yours truly,