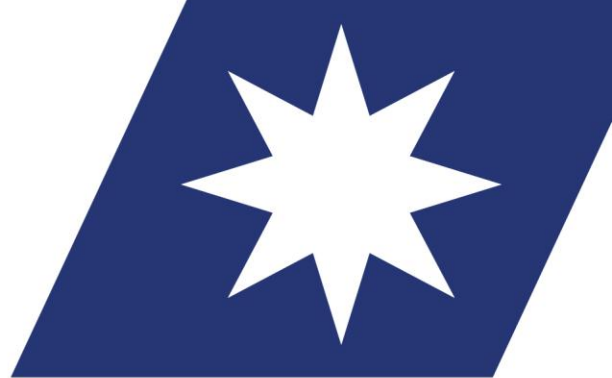


SHANE KNUTH

Katter's Australian Party

Member for Hill



MEDIA RELEASE

Knuth hits out over mass water releases

Sunwater is releasing an average of 395 megalitres of water from Tinaroo Dam every day for the month of May and could increase that amount to 500ML a day which will impact severely on farmers and recreational users in the dry months to come.

Member for Hill Shane Knuth is questioning the State Governments decision to release water for environmental flows when we have had significant rainfall and mass flooding in our region.

"Already the Barron River has had at least four to five floods this year and is being replenished by springs and creek flows," Mr Knuth said.

"Farmers are extremely concerned as to why Sunwater is releasing water after the recent wet and I am outraged that they are releasing such an exorbitant amount.

"People are excited to see dam levels reach over 90 per cent. However, as we all know these levels can drop significantly, over the winter period, and if Sunwater continues to release high volumes of water.

"We don't want to see water allocations for farmers cut in six months' time when it could have been avoided."

Mr Knuth said he had been on contact with Sunwater and has written to the Minister questioning the amount of water they are releasing straight after significant rainfall.

"It is ridiculous to throw this water away. Farmers are planning for their crops now which are to be planted in 6 months' time. If water is going to be released now dam levels could drop significantly and this will affect water allocations,' he said.

"This is why we need urgent approval and funding for the North Johnstone Transfer to go ahead."

He said that the Tablelands needed water security, not be worried that allocations will be cut every year.

About 30 years ago the maximum release of water was 150 mega litres a day.

Mr Knuth is asking why has Sunwater now easily doubling that amount of water for release?

Caption: Member for Hill Shane Knuth checking out the water levels at the Tinaroo Dam wall.
PHOTO: Supplied

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