



# Darren Chester

Federal Member for Gippsland

May 15, 2020

Angus Zilm  
Chair  
Latrobe River Irrigators  
[azilm@outlook.com](mailto:azilm@outlook.com)

Dear Angus

I refer to my correspondence dated March 20, 2020 in which I advised that I had made representations on your behalf to the Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia, Keith Pitt, MP.

I have received a response from the Minister regarding the Latrobe River Irrigators proposal and enclose a copy for your records.

You will note the Minister has referred my correspondence to the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications, Michael McCormack, MP to seek advice regarding funding for an economic study of the best use of water in the Latrobe River catchment from the National Water Grid Authority.

I will contact you again as soon as a response comes to hand.

Kind regards

DARREN CHESTER  
The Nationals



**The Hon Keith Pitt MP**

**Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia**

Ref: MC20-002679

The Hon Darren Chester MP  
Member for Gippsland  
Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Minister for Defence Personnel  
PO Box 486  
SALE VIC 3853

*Darren*  
Dear Minister

Thank you for your letter of 20 March 2020 about the Latrobe River Irrigators proposal.

I am always keen to hear about innovative and practical proposals for securing water resources for agricultural use and regional development. Water infrastructure projects that deliver secure and affordable water are vital for boosting employment in rural and regional communities across Australia.

The National Water Grid Authority commenced operation on 1 October 2019. Reporting to the Deputy Prime Minister, the Authority's first order of business was to deliver the Australian Government's commitment to invest \$100 million into bringing together the best available science to identify opportunities for enhancing water supply and reliability within Australia.

The Authority is examining opportunities to increase the capacity of Australia's water storage and supply infrastructure. As part of this work, the Authority is considering options for developing large-scale water harvesting and transfer schemes, to capture and transport water for the purposes of growing our agricultural sector, and improving drought resilience.

For this reason, I have referred your letter to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications so that it can be considered within the context of the work of the Authority to determine if an appropriate source of funding is available. A meeting could be organised if you would like to further discuss this proposal with me.

I have sent a copy of this letter to Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon Michael McCormack MP.

Yours sincerely

Keith Pitt

*12/5/2020*

cc The Hon Michael McCormack MP, Deputy Prime Minister