



Russell Joseph

Liberal for Nepean

'Caring for our Community'



Friday 5 October 2018

Liberals to explore keeping green wedge green with recycled water

An elected Liberal Nationals government will conduct a comprehensive feasibility study into a recycled water scheme to service Mornington Peninsula farmland.

With 70% of the Mornington Peninsula zoned Green Wedge land, and with some of the best farmland in the state, it is crucial we have a long term plan to preserve and fully utilise this precious rural hinterland.

Melbourne Water currently discharges an average of 350 million litres of Class A recycled water into Bass Strait at St Andrews Beach every single day of the year.

The study will examine whether some of this water can be used to supply hinterland farmers.

Liberal Candidate for Nepean Russell Joseph has been a passionate advocate for the concept, working with renowned peninsula avocado farmer and agricultural scientist Steven Marshall.

In addition to examining ways to use recycled water for high end, high value intensive horticulture the feasibility study will also look at ongoing fire protection for our most fire prone bushland areas of the Mornington Peninsula.

The use of recycled water should be examined to preserve our hinterland soil health and to keep dams filled so rainfall can again restore crucial environmental flows to our creeks and without any detriment to the ecology of our bays.

Comments attributable to Liberal Candidate for Nepean, Russell Joseph:

Providing an unlimited supply of water to our farmland would create a new industry focused on high value horticulture and with increased returns per hectare transform and preserve our beautiful hinterland.

A horticultural industry on Melbourne's doorstep, underpinned by a drought proof water supply, would deliver an entirely green wedge compatible industry and ensure the preservation of our green wedge farmland.

This project looks well beyond our four year election cycle, and should the feasibility study stack up, be a cornerstone to providing jobs and professional careers on the Peninsula for decades to come.

Media contact: Jemma Townson 0438 534 111