

# PLUG THE PIPE

..... and protect the future of country communities.

## Tim Holding Joins Plug the Pipe

19th April 2009

In Saturdays AGE article by Peter Ker, [Minister turns back on water pipeline Targets \[1\]](#), water Minister Tim Holding is reported to have contradicted Government policy documents by claiming the Government never promised the North South Pipeline would deliver 75 billion litres to Melbourne in 2011. This back flip is seen by Plug the Pipe as a final acknowledgement that the original water savings targets from the Foodbowl districts of Northern Victoria where unachievable.

Given the Governments monumental failure to secure more water for Melbourne you have to ask the question "Where too now?" Spokeswoman Jan Beer commented "Clearly the Government is in a lot of trouble. Will Melbourne spend huge amounts of money on pipeline infrastructure and let it become a white elephant, I don't think so. David Downie from the office of water has recently been quoted as saying water is a commodity and not an essential service [\[2\]](#) which is bureaucratic speak for water should be privatised. Looks like the Government will break another core promise and allow Melbourne to enter the water market."

Spokesman Mike Dalmau added "The Governments water plan is falling apart because of arrogance and ignorance. The Government was advised by its own experts that the North South Pipeline would be a poor solution for Melbourne's water problems [\[3\]](#). They ignored the recommended solutions of rainwater tanks, storm water harvesting and recycling and now the water Minister is preparing the public for the announcement of some significant water pricing increases, all of which could have been avoided."

Plug the Pipe will send an honorary membership to Tim Holding. However Jan Beer concluded, "Given Tim's experience and performance with water, Plug the Pipe can only offer him a junior position on our executive - but he may have to do some serious lobbying first."

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### MEDIA CONTACTS

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Victoria's Water Plan Advertising Campaign Will Need Revising.

[1] [Minister turns back on water pipeline targets | theage.com.au](#)

Mr Holding sought to buffer the Government from criticism over the pipeline before next week's new draft price for household water in Melbourne. ...

[2] [Time for rethink on water: adviser | theage.com.au](#)

Victorians should consider water a commodity rather than clinging to their traditional belief that it is an essential service, top water adviser says.

[3] [www.theage.com.au - Water projects 'not needed'](#)

Water projects 'not needed'. Date: March 29 2009. *Melissa Fyfe*. THE controversial \$750 million north-south pipeline is unnecessary and the desalination ...