



Media release

The Hon Peter Walsh MP

Minister for Agriculture and Food Security
Minister for Water

Wednesday 27 August 2014

Acknowledging a Goulburn Valley water leader

- **Book details John Dainton's efforts to tackle salinity in the Goulburn Broken**
- **John initiated a catchment-wide approach to managing natural resources**
- **Victorian Coalition Government supporting our irrigated agriculture industries**

Minister for Water Peter Walsh today recognised the important contribution of John Dainton to the Goulburn Valley's irrigated agriculture industry and environmental health.

Speaking at the launch of *The Story of John Dainton's Role in Mending the Goulburn Broken* by John Northage, Mr Walsh said Mr Dainton's efforts to tackle salinity in the '90s paved the way for the region's current major irrigation projects.

"This book is fitting recognition of John, who is a widely acknowledged community leader in the Goulburn Valley," Mr Walsh said.

Nationals candidate for Shepparton Greg Barr said John Dainton recognised that salinity caused by rising watertables was a major threat to irrigated agriculture in the region, as well as to the environment.

"He brought together diverse groups in the community to lead a catchment-wide approach to managing natural resources, which captured the attention of researchers and social scientists from around Australia," Mr Barr said.

"John Northage, supported by a fellowship from the former Land & Water Australia, recognised the importance of recording John's path from dairy farmer to community leader.

"His book details this journey up until John's retirement from the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (CMA) board as well as the efforts of his fellow community leaders and the community to adopt a co-ordinated approach to managing the region's resources."

Nationals candidate for Euroa Stephanie Ryan said current transformational projects such as the GMW Connections Program and on-farm irrigation efficiency through the Victorian Farm Modernisation Project were legacies of the partnerships John developed during that time.

"These programs will allow this region's farmers to continue to be the nation's major dairy, nashi, pear, peach and tomato crop producers," Ms Ryan said.

"The Victorian Coalition Government is committed to helping farmers become more productive and profitable through improved irrigation infrastructure and practices, and John's work demonstrates how much we can achieve."

Projects detailed in *The Story of John Dainton's Role in Mending the Goulburn Broken* were funded by the Commonwealth and Victorian governments. Publication of the book was funded by the Murray Darling Basin Authority and Goulburn Broken CMA. An electronic version is available at www.gbcma.vic.gov.au

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