

Friday, 14 August 2009

NATIONAL IRRIGATORS' COUNCIL CEO TO TOUR REGION

The new CEO of the National Irrigators' Council, Danny O'Brien, will tour northern NSW and southern Queensland irrigation regions next week.

Mr O'Brien was recently appointed to the NIC, which is the peak national body for irrigators.

The NIC's objective is to develop projects and policies to ensure the efficiency, viability and sustainability of Australian irrigated agriculture and the security and reliability of water entitlements.

Mr O'Brien will meet with the Gwydir Valley Irrigator's Association on Monday (17 August) and tour farms in the Moree district, before travelling to St George to meet with SmartRivers representatives on Tuesday.

On Wednesday Mr O'Brien will be in the Darling Downs for talks with Central Downs Irrigators Ltd before travelling to Goondiwindi to attend the Border Rivers Food and Fibre AGM on Thursday.

Mr O'Brien said the trip was a fact-finding mission to learn more about local irrigation practices, current challenges and the key issues that local irrigators want the NIC to tackle.

"Everyone is facing difficult circumstances at the moment, whether it's through ongoing drought, concerns about government policies or the impact of the Murray Darling Basin Plan which is currently under development," Mr O'Brien said.

"I look forward to hearing the views of local irrigators so the NIC can better represent their interests in our dealings with government.

"Irrigation is a key economic driver in the region and we will be working to ensure it remains a viable, sustainable industry well into the future."

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