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Title:
Radio broadcast by Don Dunstan: General Election

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RADIO BROADCAST BY DON DUNSTAN GENERAL ELECTION

I want to have a talk to you about this State's development, but at the outset I want to clear up some of the things that have recently been said.

Some of you have possibly seen some television programmes by the Premier in which he shows you a bitter, parched earth, and turns off a tap and says that, in effect, if you do not vote for everything he says must be done in an Agreement about the River Murray waters, South Australia won't have a water supply.

I vividly remember being Premier of this State at the time of the worst drought in the State's history, and at that time the present Premier demanded that we impose water restrictions in Adelaide. We didn't need to impose restrictions because we had planned the amount of water which would be available to Adelaide then, and knew that if the public cooperated in just being reasonably careful about water, we would get by, and we did. This was the only capital city in Australia which had no water restrictions at the time. And the LCL said we were cynically and opportunistically playing with the water supply.

Well, the Labor Party doesn't do that, and we will not in fact be given instant extra water if we agree to all the conditions that the LCL proposes concerning River Murray Dams. The Dartmouth Dam cannot commence storing water until 1975 at the earliest and the flow of the Mitta Mitta River is so small that given normal years the Dartmouth Dam will take six winters to fill. We will therefore not have effective water from that proposal until 1980, and as it is not ready to go to tender, we have still time to take out the offending clauses from the Agreement.

The existing River Murray Waters Agreement provides for the building of the Chowilla Dam, which is essential both to supply extra water in quantity, and to iron out the peaks of salty water sent down to us from other States over which we have no control. The other States haven't asked us to give up our rights. The LCL demands clauses in the Agreement which ensure that we do. There is time to re-negotiate those clauses before commencing the Dartmouth Dam on schedule.

The Labor Party wants extra water not merely from one, but two or more storages on the River Murray. The LCL is suggesting now that if the River Murray Commission has 8½M. acre feet of water stored in the two storages, we won't get any more water than a 3½M. acre feet entitlement, and that suggestion is simply absurd.

The Labor Party, however, doesn't believe only in provision of storages on the River Murray. We have to develop the whole of the State's water resources. When we were in office we sought tenders from the major water resource investigation centres of the world, to survey all resources of South Australia - including the South-East ground waters for use for the development of that region; the re-use of metropolitan water and how desalination could fit into our industrial complex most economically; and whether we could use the periodic great run-offs of water in our Far North. The Government scrapped these plans, and we intend to go ahead with them again.

We also intend to have an Industrial Development Department set up on a scientific basis. We started it. We got an economic resource survey undertaken by Arthur D. Little, Inc. of Massachusetts, to

point to the areas of economic opportunity, and the potential for investment in those areas. We wanted to ensure that the gaps in our industrial structure were filled, and that we could get into markets other than domestic Australian markets. We wanted an economy less vulnerable to the sort of fluctuations the State has had and is likely to have in the immediate future. We also had the best qualified Director of Industrial Development anywhere in Australia; a man with the necessary industrial background, scientific knowledge, and close association with Asian industry, to make our programmes effective. He was driven from office by the present Government. The economic resource survey was altered in midstream and then simply thrown in the wastepaper basket. It has never been published. The result has been so ineffective a policy of industrial development that not one major new development has occurred in South Australia in the last two years which had not already been announced and agreed to by the previous Labor Government.

To back a scientific industrial policy, the State needs adequate industrial research, and we will establish an Industrial Research Institute and seek for it the support of industry in Australia. Some support has already been promised. We will undertake the necessary market research to develop new products for the State, and use State finances to create new industries and to fund those with good products but which are so far undercapitalised. South Australia needs development of its material in industrial resources on a planned basis using every resource and opportunity available to us. We urge you to vote for the Labor Party for South Australia's sake since the Labor Party is the only Party with a policy which can achieve these things.