

# Labor's plan may cripple Murray towns: Coulton

The Federal Government's knee-jerk proposal to "restore" the nation's greatest river system is threatening to jeopardise the future of communities in the Murray Darling Basin, according to the Member for Parkes.

Parkes MP Mark Coulton joined Opposition water spokesperson, Greg Hunt, and Opposition Parliamentary Secretary for Water Resources and Conservation, Senator Fiona Nash, on a tour of the towns that lie within Murray Darling Basin in the Parkes electorate to determine first-hand the impact the Government's national water plan would have on local farmers, irrigators and communities.

Mr Coulton said what the delegation heard and discovered on the tour was "alarming".

"In towns such as Mungindi, Gilgandra, Gunnedah and Dubbo there is widespread concern about the Government's strategy of spend-

ing exorbitant amounts of money to purchase water entitlements without even the most basic understanding of the effects the ill-conceived proposal will have."

"The result of this is that for the first time in our history a Government - rather than Mother Nature - is inducing drought."

Mr Coulton said the decision to spend money on buying water to return to the environment instead of investing in infrastructure had the very real potential to jeopardise the nation's food security and financially cripple many towns without the possibility of any real water being put back into the river system.

"What most concerned the people we met - as well as ourselves - is that right throughout the Basin these decisions are being made by the Government without the most basic consultation with the communities".

# Glittering ceremony sees ... Major title go to Midwest Foods



## OUR TOWN

Midwest Foods has been named as Dubbo's best business, taking out the 2008 Gold Rhino in a glittering ceremony hosted by Ita Buttrose.

Based around a theme of *A Night At The Opera*, Dubbo's business awards were handed out last night to deserving recipients.

Former Dubbo Citizen of the Year, Gale Eckford, was added to the Emile Serisier Roll of Honour, while Spartans Pizza, Pasta, and Kebab Bar took the coveted People's Choice Award.

But it was the foodservice business Midwest Foods that won the top trophy, naming it as the best business in Dubbo.

It also won the Excellence in Products and Services award for businesses with more than 10 employees.

Its managing director, Damien Mahon, started as a delivery driver for the company in 1989 - but six weeks later was offered position of manager. Eventually buying out his boss, after some early struggles, the business soon took off - on the back of "good old fashioned hard work and perseverance".

Fast forward to 2008, Toni and Shane Alderdice are business partners - Toni is the general manager/director - Midwest Foods employs 25 staff, has a total of 14 vehicles, 1200 active customers, 3000 product lines - and its drivers travel more than 37,000 kilometres per month, servicing about a quarter of NSW.

Known as a "broadline distributor" in the industry, Midwest Foods is more than a food wholesale business. As well as frozen and chilled food, it wholesales dry groceries, paper and packaging, and cleaning products. It also offers gourmet products as well.

It's also a business that, while working on a big business structure, maintains small business manners. Staff

## And the winners are ...

### The Western Plains Nissan Award for Excellence in Products and Services

Under-10 employees Red Earth Estate Vineyard  
Over-10 employees Midwest Foods

### The Dubbo City Council Award for Excellence in Presentation and Marketing

Under-10 employees Natalie Bramble Management  
Over-10 employees Thompson Brothers Transport

### The Western College Award for Excellence in People Development

Under-10 employees Fuze  
Over-10 employees Morse Group

### The Australian Technical College Award for Excellence in Customer Focus

Under-10 employees Morrison Podiatry  
Over-10 employees Orana Mall Pharmacy

### The Genesys Wealth Advisers Award for Excellence in Business Development

Under-10 employees Bosweb Systems  
Over-10 employees JR Richards and Sons

### The Joblink Plus Award for Excellence in Community Service

Under-10 employees Meals on Wheels  
Over-10 employees Dubbo Rescue Squad

### The Country Energy Award for Excellence in Environmental Sustainability

Under-10 employees WaterTrack  
Over-10 employees Central West Catchment Management Authority

### The Kintyre County Living Award for Excellence in Rural Achievement

Under-10 employees Team Irrigation  
Over-10 employees Price Mushrooms of the Western Plains

### The CPA Australia Award for Best New Business (Baby Rhino)

Studio 0062

### The Australian Business Limited Award for Employee of the Year

Debbie McCarthy - Kintyre Country Living

### Trainee of the Year

Laura Holland - The Third Dimension Framing

### Apprentice of the Year

Samantha Waters - Fuze

### Qantaslink People's Award

Spartans Pizza Pasta and Kebab Bar

### Liberal Service with a Smile

Robyn Tozer - Dubbo RSL Health Club

### Encouragement Awards

Dubbo Printing Works

UPA Bracken House

Kitchen Creations

### Emile Serisier Roll of Honour

Gail Eckford

### Gold Rhino

Midwest Foods

are included in think-tank meetings, and it recently completed a renovation, doubling the size of the warehouse storage, and building new freezers. Perhaps the reason its been

dubbed Dubbo's top business comes down to a comment from one of its clients, who describing Midwest Foods the business as "an extension of my own business".

## Rewarding our Volunteers

### Nominations are now being called for the 2008 Dubbo City Community Service Awards

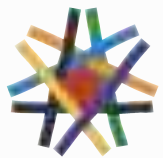
Dubbo City Council wishes to recognise those local citizens who have carried out community work that has improved the quality of life for individuals or the community as a whole.

This prestigious award is presented to local volunteers each year in November to mark the anniversary of Dubbo's proclamation of a village in 1849.

Nominations close  
Monday 3 November 2008

For further information, contact Dubbo City Council on 6801 4000.

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