

MEDIA RELEASE

PIPELINE WILL BE THE DEATH OF US ALL

Independent candidate for Mallee, Jason Modica, has slammed an announcement of support by Cobalt Blue Holdings Limited as further evidence of NSW Government collusion with mining and cotton industries – once again putting their interests above farming, irrigation and regional NSW communities.

Modica said “The pipeline, established under Ministerial Order and deemed necessary infrastructure in 2017, was always a mystery with no public business case and the amount of water taken, from the already over allocated Murray River, under the guise of water supply for Broken Hill who only need 13 megalitres a day”

An announcement on Cobalt Blue Holdings website extends “congratulations to WaterNSW and their project partners John Holland and MPC Group for the successful construction and commissioning of the 270km water supply pipeline from the Murray River at Wentworth to Broken Hill. The project will provide long term water security for the community by supplying up to 37.4 megalitres per day to the Essential Water treatment plant at Broken Hill.”

The provision of a secure source of water to Broken Hill significantly de-risks the Thackaringa Cobalt Project. Essential Water has committed to supply up to 1.5 gigalitres per year of water to Cobalt Blue to service the cobalt processing and refining requirements.”

Cotton Australia CEO Adam Kay, wrote in its Annual Report of 2016-17, similarly congratulated itself for “...successes in the area of water policy in regard to the Murray Darling Basin Plan... as well as a plan to resolve Broken Hill’s water supply that will have important implications for many growers.”

The Annual Report goes on to attribute lobbying efforts of the NSW Government as “driven by a joint effort from BRFF, GVIA, Namoi Water, Barwon-Darling Water, the Cotton Grower Associations and Cotton Australia.”

All the while the NSW Government have been lying to the communities of Far West NSW and Victoria, asserting that somehow the Menindee Lakes system was broken and needed to be fixed, for the benefit of Broken Hill. We now know the LNP Government was determined to break the Menindee Lakes and the communities along the Darling to serve their commercial agenda.

Mr Modica says the timing of the announcement was telling – it came only after the Government went into caretaker mode ahead of the NSW election.

“Today, in the wake of the National Party’s loss of the seat of Murray, I posed three questions of Mr Blair and the Premier of NSW:

Where did the water come from? How will this impact the communities along the Murray and the river itself?

JASONMODICA.COM.AU



Who paid for it and at what price? Calculated at temporary, the amount of money changing hands must have been substantial.

Was this deal done to secure political donations? What effect have these deals had on the outcome of the NSW election?

“But, with breaking news of Mr Blair’s departure from parliament the day after the election, I guess we will have to wait until we know who the new Water Minister of NSW is before the communities of the Murray and Darling can have these questions answered.”

- END: 24 March 2019 -

Background Information and Sources

“Cobalt Blue has found a “first mover” partner in South Korean giant LG International

- *MiningNews.net 24 May 2018*

“...significant increase in cobalt use observed in the market recently, as cobalt is a necessary metal in the production of the high-density lithium-ion batteries that help to power electric vehicles.

Last November, Cobalt Blue allocated \$2.5m in investor funds to pay for in-house cobalt sulphate purity testing at the request of potential South Korean, Chinese and Japanese battery industry partners.

- *Mining Journal 5 July 2018*

“Cobalt Blue had to spend a minimum A\$2.5m and deliver a pre-feasibility study to achieve the second stage goals. It completed the PFS in July, which justified the commercial development of the project and allowed project financing negotiations to start.

The company said in its June quarter results that it had begun bankable feasibility studies and project optimization studies.

It aims to fast-track development of the project to achieve commercial cobalt production.”

- *Mining Journal 5 September 2018*

MODICA 4 MALLEE

PEOPLE · POWER · WATER · HEALTH

“Cobalt Blue is proud to announce that it has secured up to 1.5GL of water per annum that will be supplied by Essential Water at a metered off-take point on the western outskirts of Broken Hill.”

- *Cobalt Blue Market Announcement 5 December 2018*

As of January 1, 2019, Rob McDonald has taken over as a non-executive Director. He began his career with Rio Tinto plc before assuming senior roles in investment banking and private equity.

“...his background in project development and optimization, strategy and business development, transaction management and capital markets would serve to complement the existing Board’s capabilities. ...through a strategic advisory role with COB during 2018, Rob McDonald was already familiar with the opportunities and challenges facing the company.

- *Cobalt Blue chairman Rob Biancardi.*

Cobalt Blue has received firm commitments from investors to raise \$1.687m in a share placement.

Under the placement managed by lead broker Blue Ocean Equities Pty Ltd, 8.435m new fully paid ordinary shares will be issued at a price of 20 cents per share.

- *Proactiveinvestors Australia 31 December 2018*