

Central NSW MPs outline their plans

Posted August 23, 2010 10:46:00

While the future of Australia's government is unclear, MPs across central New South Wales have been comfortably elected in the weekend poll.

They are starting to outline their plans for the next three years.

The Federal Member for Parkes Mark Coulton declared victory within two hours of the polls closing on Saturday.

Mr Coulton secured nearly 64 per cent of the vote on a two-party preferred basis.

He won more than 58 per cent of the primary vote, compared to Andrew Brooks of Country Labor with nearly 22 per cent and independent John Clements who had just over 10 per cent.

Mr Coulton says the region has strong prospects for the coming term.

He says getting through the predicted spring locust plague will be vital for the agricultural industry.

"If we can pull that off with a reasonable price for grain that is going to be a huge boost for the entire economy of that area," he said.

"Many of these farmers, particularly in the southern part of the electorate, are looking at their first crop in eight years and I think that's going to have a great psychological boost, and hopefully that will flow through to the towns."

The Federal Member for Calare, John Cobb, has retained his seat after picking up 61 per cent of the vote on a two-party preferred basis.

He beat six other candidates and was followed by Labor's Kevin Duffy then the Greens' Jeremy Buckingham.

The Nationals MP said a new dam is needed to drought-proof Central West communities.

Mr Cobb said he believes a proposal to expand Lake Rowlands near Blayney by 700 per cent and build a series of pipelines will not secure the region's water supplies in the long-term.

"No, I think we have to build a new one, I think a new one a bit lower down," he said.

"People say we shouldn't talk about new dams - damn it, that's the facts, that's what we have to do.

"I've accepted advice from others that expansion is probably not big enough for the future that we need a new one about less than two kilometres downhill from there."

Central NSW MPs outline their plans - ABC News (Australian Broadcasting Corporation)