

Water on its way to farmers

ANNIKA SMETHURST

THE Morrison Government has released details of how it will divert 100 gegalitres of Murray River water to drought-affected fodder producers.

The drought-relief measure will give farmers water originally destined for Adelaide, but it must be used to grow fodder.

South Australia struck the \$100 million deal with Canberra to fire up a desalination plant in return for the additional flows.

Water Resources and Drought Minister David Littleproud will today unveil guidelines for the program, which will allow eligible farmers to apply for the first 40 gegalitres from next week. The water will flow by Christmas.

Mr Littleproud said the deal will allow farmers keep their herds healthy so they're not forced to destock.

A deadline for Donald

A US congressional panel has given President Donald Trump a week to say whether his legal counsel intends to introduce evidence and call witnesses in impeachment proceedings that could lead to formal charges of misconduct within a few weeks.

The Democratic-led House Judiciary Committee, which is due to begin weighing possible articles of impeachment against Trump next week, sent a two-page letter to the president setting a deadline of 9am AEDT on Saturday for the president's counsel to specify intended actions under the its impeachment procedures.

The procedures set out rules by which the president can call witnesses, introduce evidence and make presentations.

Panel Democratic Chairman Jerrold Nadler set the same deadline for Republican lawmakers to notify him about intended witnesses and evidence and scheduled a December 9 meeting to consider the matter.



Lung may you baaa, Mel

THEY say it's not the size of the dog in the fight but the size of the fight in the dog. In this case, it's about the size of the fight in the lamb — because Melanie here is living with two barely functioning lungs. Vets discovered she had a rare lung condition that they had never seen before. Her foster carer Mel was told Melanie needed emergency surgery and the full right lobe of her right lung needed to be removed. After the

procedure, she was briefly clinically dead before being revived and making a recovery hailed as a "miracle".

Melanie's family, in Altona in Melbourne's west, are ecstatic, as she has "brought an amazing rush of love" in a short period of time.

They say her red jumper is a reminder of her hardships, the heart showing the heart and soul she showed during the op.

lambcareaustralia.org.au/donate

Picture: MARK STEWART

No help with horror tenant

Department sued

HOMEOWNERS enduring unruly public-housing neighbours have been told by authorities they are on their own.

The Department of Health and Human Services has tried to fend off legal action by a primary school teacher who was attacked by a public-housing tenant living next door, by arguing it did not owe her a duty of care "as a matter of law".

Megan Grant, 38, is suing DHHS for the trauma she alleges she endured while living in the Pascoe Vale "unit from hell".

Ms Grant claims she was abused and punched by her public-housing neighbour, who set fires, trespassed, vandalised other people's property and roamed common areas at night making noises.

The County Court heard the man "engaged in a range of threatening and dangerous behaviours" including carrying a machete, swerving his car into people and throwing lit objects into his neighbours' properties.

Ms Grant claims DHHS did too little, too late, to move the man, who she was terrified would kill her.

The department tried, but failed, to have Ms Grant's case thrown out of court, arguing it "did not owe a duty of care" to her. Ms Grant told the *Sunday Herald Sun* she did not know

MANDY SQUIRES

the property she saved so hard to buy was next to public housing until after she moved in.

Court documents reveal Ms Grant made multiple reports to DHHS staff and police and was granted intervention orders against the neighbour.

DHHS told the court when public-housing residents behaved antisocially, staff investigated. But its tenants had rights and were given the chance to respond to allegations "in accordance with principles of natural justice and procedural fairness".

Ms Grant stopped living in the unit in mid-2016 because she was scared but still paid the mortgage on the property until it was sold in 2017.

She said she had spent nearly \$150,000 fighting DHHS in court. "I've lost my home, my savings, and all faith in the systems and organisations that are supposed to govern and protect me," Ms Grant said.

DHHS manages about 64,000 public rental units and oversees accommodation for a further 19,500 premises housing about 166,000 people.

A DHHS spokeswoman said it regarded the safety and security of tenants and their neighbours as vitally important. mandy.squires@news.com.au

Help bring Santa into the 21st century with these great tech gifts.

See all our great tech at your participating Post Office.



\$199
Save \$30

Telstra Samsung Galaxy A20



\$299
Save \$50

Samsung Galaxy Tab A 10.1



On sale at participating Post Offices from Monday 25 November until Sunday 22 December while stocks last. Offers subject to change and network availability. No rainchecks. ID required. No trade sales. Handsets and broadband products are locked to the relevant carrier. Unlocking fee may apply. Check carrier website for coverage in your area. Terms and conditions apply. For your nearest participating Post Office call: All States 13 POST (13 76 78) or visit our website: auspost.com.au