

## Adrian Pederick MP

Member for Hammond

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### **No wash zones need further research**

Skiing restrictions and 'no-wash zones' proposed for 28 sites along the Murray River requires further scientific research and public consultation, according to Liberal Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick.

The Government has backed a proposal aimed at reducing riverbank erosion that could have negative impacts on towns along the River Murray.

"Fair and reasonable consultation combined with in-depth scientific study must be undertaken before justifying the implementation of the proposed no-wash zones and the boating speed restrictions," Mr Pederick said.

"Bank erosion has been going on for 100 years, however the bank slumping we have seen recently has been a direct result of the devastating drought which brought low river levels and flows."

The limited information about the proposed sites and restrictions is also a concern.

"Not enough is known about the particular sites which will be subject to the River Murray ECO Action Group's proposed restrictions," Mr Pederick said.

"We must monitor the trial sites with an open mind.

"If this is not done there is the very real possibility that tourism in River Murray towns will drop, in turn impacting local businesses in towns such as Murray Bridge, Tailem Bend, Myponga, Milang and Goolwa."

It is an emotive issue as people look to blame river users and boat operators for the erosion.

"Everyone wants to see the River Murray and its banks in good health," Mr Pederick said.

"In order to achieve the right outcome for all groups interested and associated with the River Murray, the Government must assure broad public consultation opportunities are met and completed before any restrictions are implemented.

"From discussions had with the Boating Industry Association of SA, it is their perspective nothing will happen until the correct and fair consultation with all interested parties is complete."

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