



Cash will flow

By **Ben Brennan**

PREMIER Jay Weatherill says communities from the Murray Mouth to the border will be able to take advantage of hundreds of millions of dollars dedicated to the State in the wake of the Murray Darling Basin Plan.

In Loxton on Friday, Mr Weatherill raised some eyebrows when he announced details of the \$265 million windfall he negotiated with former Prime Minister Julia Gillard because he spoke regularly of the

Riverland but did not mention the Murraylands.

However, he told The Standard yesterday that irrigators and communities below Lock 1 would "absolutely" be included in the funding roll out.

"The whole point of this is that everyone throughout the basin has fought for it," Mr Weatherill said.

Mr Weatherill and Federal Water Minister Mark Butler announced on Friday that \$240 million would be dedicated to irrigation industry improvement,

while \$25 million would go to upgrading the Loxton Research Centre.

"The \$240 million is open to irrigators along the whole of the basin," Mr Weatherill said.

He said the Loxton centre funding would help the station become a research hub and that two regional support officers would be based at Murray Bridge.

The community may soon learn more about how the money will be spent, according to the Premier, who said information sessions on the funding rollout were due to begin on September 11.

But Opposition Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick was sceptical of the announcement and said the Premier had offered little more detail on the funding, which was first announced 10 months ago.

"Irrigators are having to wait and wait and wait and it's playing politics with people's livelihoods," Mr Pederick said.

"Instead of announcements and platitudes we need to see the Government just get on and deliver this."



Funding rollout: Premier Jay Weatherill, pictured at Lake Alexandrina during a visit last October, says South Australian basin communities will benefit from \$265 million of funding from the deal he negotiated with the Federal Government.