



Zone hogwash

By **Ben Brennan**

THERE are no plans to enforce proposed no wash zones on the river, according to the State Government, Boating Industry Association of South Australia (BIASA) and Keep South Australia Beautiful (KESAB).

Watersports enthusiasts were outraged last week following reports which claimed a River

Murray Eco Action Plan, proposed by BIASA and KESAB, would restrict water skiing, wakeboarding and other activities at 28 sites along the Murray.

In response to the reports, a Facebook page opposing River Murray no wash zones had attracted more than 1000 subscribers as of yesterday morning, and ski resort operators and Member for Hammond Adrian

Pederick were slamming the scheme as a belated attempt to tackle riverbank collapse.

However, proponents of the plan poured water on the reports late last week, saying there were no plans to make the zones legally enforceable.

The Standard first reported on the no wash zone initiative in April last year, when joint convenors of the River Murray Eco Action Plan - BIASA general manager Glen Jones and KESAB project manager Dick Olesinski - launched a trial scheme at Greening's Landing at Mannum.

Mr Jones told The Standard then that no wash zones were an educational initiative designed to remind boat users to be mindful of other river users and the environment.

Continued page 3.



Washout: Greg Bean, from Adelaide, is not about to have his river activities curtailed any time soon.

No wash zone hogwash

From page 3

The no wash zone signs were erected at Mannum, Blanchetown and Murray Bridge.

In the proposed action plan a further 25 sites have been earmarked for no wash zone signage, predominately in front of marinas, pump-out stations and environmentally sensitive areas

On Friday, Mr Jones and Mr Olesinki said the scheme remained an awareness raising exercise and water skiing and wakeboarding would not be restricted.

"Absolutely not," Mr Olesinki said.

"There's no two ways about that."

A spokesman for the State Department of Environment Water and Natural Resources also said the Government

supported initiatives to reduce damage to river environment but said the no wash zones were not about targeting boat users.

"The intent of the River Murray No Wash Zones Project is not to stop the use of high powered boats or jet skis," he said.

"Its role is to increase the knowledge of river users about the potentially adverse impacts of vessel wake wash on the River Murray system and how that impact can be minimised.

"It is just a public awareness campaign/ educational campaign not a compliance or enforcement activity."

- Details: To view the action plan and proposed sites for further no wash zones visit www.river-murraycoaction.com.au