

Wednesday 17 October 2007
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: CLAYTON WATER SUPPLY

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond): I congratulate the Public Works Committee on looking into the water supply at Clayton. The community of Clayton had at least six different water schemes. It has been in strife with ageing infrastructure. It is good to see the government come on side to hook them up to a scheme to the River Murray.

There are certainly issues with salinity, and this has not been helped by the lack of effective maintenance on the barrages on the Lower Lakes. Certainly pool levels are dropping, but there are predictions now, with all the ingress from the sea, that the lake levels will not recede as far as first thought, which means that there will be a lot of unusable saltwater in the lakes. I believe that, in the longer term, the government will be looking at emergency desalination options for any off-takes in the River Murray. I hope it has that on notice.

My farm relies on the Keith pipeline and any 'just-in-time' pipelines such as towards Wistow, etc., and even towns such as Murray Bridge, will need emergency desalination because of the lack of infrastructure work in the past. I believe that the water will get saltier because of the lack of maintenance.

However, I commend the installation of this new facility to get better water infrastructure and a better water supply for the citizens of Clayton. It is a very nice spot in my electorate. It is a lovely place to visit and to talk to my constituents.

I commend SA Water for making a commitment to the committee that it would put a fire hydrant near the CFS shed for fire control work at Clayton, and I applaud it for that. I look forward to further improvements in the future to enhance the beautiful and serene spot of Clayton.