

Water infrastructure, Wellington weir – March 8, 2007

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond): I wish to address the lack of infrastructure planning by this government, in particular, the proposed weir near Wellington.

If there had been some appropriate planning for Waterproofing Adelaide—there are plenty of meetings, plenty of documents that get thrown out, saying, 'Yes; we have waterproofed Adelaide.' Well, codswallop you have waterproofed Adelaide, because there has been no planning and no reservoirs have been built. Your voting against stormwater bills, sewage mining and a better rainwater tank bill in the upper house in December last year shows a total disregard for the drought situation we face.

Mr Pisoni: There is a lack of understanding.

Mr PEDERICK: Absolutely; a lack of understanding, as the member for Unley just said.

Mrs Geraghty: You know that's not true.

Mr PEDERICK: It is absolutely true. It was voted against in the upper house; check the *Hansard*. This is a total lack of management of water. I challenge members. There are 30 000 people reliant on water below Wellington. I admit that I was not present, but I had representatives at a meeting at Langhorne Creek last night, where the Minister for Water Security said, 'Yes; we have to talk with communities about what will do for water supplies below the weir. Well, we are discussing it with communities.' At this stage, two standpipes will be put in from which people can cart water, and a bloke has bought a couple of watercarts. That will come nowhere near getting the water needed for the Narrung Peninsula, which has access to groundwater. An amount of 4.6 million litres a day is needed on that peninsula alone for stock and domestic supply.

I challenge the government. If we took, for example, the electorate of Newland, with about 30 000 people living there, and switched off its water, what would happen? We would see outrage in the streets, and they wonder why 500 people marched on this place recently. There is total disregard for these people, who live in South Australia. I am one of the first to admit that we cannot let Adelaide run out of water, but because of the total disregard for infrastructure planning nothing has happened in regard to waterproofing not just Adelaide but the whole state. This weir is all about Adelaide and we will be in dangerous strife because, if this weir goes in, there is a danger of its becoming too saline and nutrient rich to use anyway. Adelaide will be in real strife. What will happen then?

The government has been forced to piggyback on our policy of desalination because it has done nothing. It has decided to pick it up from the Liberal Party. Well done! It is saying our costings are way out. We said in our policy launch that the Perth plant cost \$400 million. Obviously with inflation it may cost a bit more to build a plant for Adelaide. We know too well that we will not be in government for at least another three years, but at least we are putting some policy forward, yet the government has suddenly decided that we are in strife. It will be an outrageous waste of taxpayers' money, this \$110 million, which blew out from \$20 million from an off the cuff announcement by Premier Rann, shielded by his so-called water security minister who said, 'Oh, that was for a narrow section of the river where we thought it would cost that much.'

Anyone could go back to the records, as did the engineers when they went down to do the soil testing and were given a map from 1930. Consult with the locals! Hello! Let us consult with the local people. That would be a novel idea for this government. If you consult with the locals you would find that there are up to 300 feet or 100 metres of silt

there that you cannot attach anything to. To come out with a figure of \$20 million is out there. Policy on the run. It will be \$110 million to put it in, and I can see it blowing out to \$200 million by the time you pull it out and factor in Labor's usual blow-outs.