

MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP

Shadow Minister for the River Murray,
Agriculture, Food & Fisheries and Forests

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Water to arrive just in time for state election

News that as much as 1200 gegalitres of water may flow into the Menindee Lakes as a result of the floods in NSW has set the stage for Premier Mike Rann to orchestrate more flows for South Australia closer to the state election.

Shadow River Murray Minister Adrian Pederick said Mike Rann was taking the public for fools if he thought South Australians did not realise what he was doing.

Reports are emerging from the Murray Darling Association that flows past Bourke may now exceed 1200 gegalitres (gl) – meaning NSW will likely allow an even greater flow past Menindee Lakes into Lake Victoria and on to South Australia.

“The way the Menindee Lakes are currently being managed, they can only hold 610 gl and already had 140 so the most they can keep out of this flow is around 470gl. Anything over that really has to pass on down the river – unless they start filling the other two lakes that have a dead water capacity of 200gl,” Mr Pederick said.

“Mike Rann would have known last week that much more water would end up flowing past the Menindee Lakes.

“Now he is colluding with his interstate colleagues to release the water closer to the March 20 state election. He gets to look like a hero by announcing more water will be flowing to South Australia.

“Mike Rann is treating us like idiots. He told us he had negotiated a ‘historic’ water deal and that has been proven wrong.

“Now he wants South Australians to think he has secured this extra water because of his exceptional negotiation skills – not likely!

“Mike Rann is playing politics with water but South Australians will not have the wool pulled over their eyes.”