

MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond

Shadow Minister for

The River Murray - Forests

Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

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SA's share of water unsure from forecast floods

Current forecasts of heavy rain and flooding in southern Queensland which forms part of the Murray Darling catchment area does not automatically mean good flows down stream into South Australia.

Shadow River Murray Minister Adrian Pederick said the failure of Premier Mike Rann and Labor's Water Security Minister Karlene Maywald's 'historic' national water deal will again be highlighted with no clear mandate dictating how much of the projected flood waters will make its way down the River Murray in SA.

"The NSW Government is likely to make decisions based on their industry and their irrigators needs well before the environment down stream or the needs of SA irrigators and communities reliant on the River Murray," Mr Pederick said.

"SA remains a poor cousin when it comes to how water is allocated.

"Mike Rann and Karlene Maywald held up the national water agreement as the deal to save the River Murray Basin, but until there is a true national approach to water SA will continue to get the raw end of the deal.

"The projected Queensland flood water opens another opportunity for Mike Rann to show us what he is really made of.

"He should get on a plane, meet with his NSW counterpart Kristina Keneally and broker a fair share of water for SA – then fly to Canberra and meet with his mate Kevin.

"It is hard to believe that while Prime Minister Kevin Rudd was in town on the weekend the issues of water and the River Murray were not mentioned. Either Rann has no influence with Rudd or he doesn't see the River Murray as a SA priority".