

MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond

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The River Murray - Forests

Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

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Additional inflows must benefit everyone says Pederick

News that irrigators will get a further boost to their allocation allowance was welcomed by the Shadow River Murray Minister Adrian Pederick.

Recent rains have eased the noose on SA irrigators still struggling with drought and the effects of over-allocation.

Mr Pederick said the increased inflows offered SA an opportunity to make some headway on dealing with serious issues facing the Lower Murray and Lakes.

'The additional flows should free up funds earmarked by the SA government for the industry support program providing financial back-up to irrigators,' he said.

'Given the parlous state of our river environment below Lock 1 and its desperate need of water, I call on the government to secure more water for the environment and keep affected communities fully informed about their aims and intentions to stave off fish kills in Lake Albert and put more flows into Lake Alexandrina.

'While the full amount of water needed to solve all our woes is clearly not available, we must do all we can with the limited resource to ease the plight of our sick river.

'The problems we have here affect everybody. Irrigators are struggling to survive - let alone grow the food we eat, many river businesses below Lock 1 have their backs to the wall, riverbank residents have been advised to stay away from their properties and the developing crisis threatens Adelaide's water supply.

'As the government is refusing to provide assistance for the effects of slumping, some extra water would go at least some way towards delaying its effects.'