

MEDIA RELEASE

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Bioremediation option overdue says Pederick

News that the state government will shift its rescue effort focus for Lake Albert from pumping fresh water to bio-remediation has raised mixed feelings for Shadow River Murray Minister Adrian Pederick.

‘That this is being done to ease the plight of Lake Alexandrina is good news for that lake,’ Mr Pederick said.

‘That it also will push out the critical timeline for the ‘weir that nobody wants to build’ at Wellington also offers some temporary reprieve.

‘It does, however, highlight yet again how slow this government has been to find and implement other solutions to the big problem, low water levels through low river flows.

‘I’ve been calling for many months for the government to focus on bio-remediation options that have far less impact on the environment and minimal cost. They also enable us to form effective and lasting partnerships with the affected communities, instead of making them the victims.

‘Locals all around the lakes are frustrated and annoyed that bio-remediation was not employed on a large scale months ago.

‘Their local knowledge and experience is being called for now to plan the recovery of the Lower Lakes.

‘But they weren’t listened to months ago when evidence of natural bio-remediation became apparent.

‘Instead, the government has left things to the point of no return and left itself with no option but massive engineering fixes.

‘The Taylor report of December 2008, commissioned by the government, recommended limestone dosing trials from Wellington and Lake Albert and other locations around the lakes. That was six months ago.

‘The Taylor report also considered admitting seawater into Lake Alexandrina was likely to produce a poor outcome as against bio-remediation methods.

‘The delays have narrowed our options, reduced our chances of success, divided communities and threaten the survival of the entire eco-system.’

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