



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Adrian Pederick MP JP**

Member for Hammond  
Parliamentary Secretary to the Liberal Leader for  
- The River Murray  
- Sustainability and Climate Change

Monday May 5th, 2008

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### **Pederick invites columnist to 'Come and see'**

Publication of the wrong information about the history and state of the Lower Murray and Lakes has led local MP Adrian Pederick to invite a NSW-based columnist to join him on a guided tour of the region.

'The desperate situation of low water levels in the river and lakes has everyone upstream and downstream looking for causes and questioning remedial actions,' said the Member for Hammond. 'Finger-pointing and the blame game are not going to get the right outcome for the severely stressed river system.'

Mr Pederick said while the Lower Lakes and Coorong are about to reach the point of no return the government is promising help in three to ten years time and considering closing off and abandoning the internationally recognised wetland entirely.

He said newspaper reports from NSW and Victoria have carried some grossly inaccurate assertions about the situation at the end of the system.

'Articles in rural newspapers have painted a picture of South Australians as selfish and wasteful because we want the river and lakes system to be left in its natural state.

'The opinions of our interstate neighbours are being badly skewed by statements like; "open the barrages and let the river flow out to sea", "the Murray mouth is at Wellington" and "water levels in the main channel remain high".

'People upstream who read this sort of misinformation are bound to point the finger at us. It would also be true that we here are somewhat dependent on "expert opinion" about upstream conditions, leading to the same misguided and counter-productive blame game at both ends of the river.'

He said some of these so-called 'facts' are so patently misleading that one can't help but be suspicious about the motive for stating them.

Mr Pederick said he has invited one of the main offending columnists to visit him here to see for herself exactly what the situation is and learn more about the region's history and its importance to the whole river system.

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