

MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond
**Shadow Minister for
The River Murray**
Agriculture, Food and Fisheries – Forests

Monday August 17, 2009

Government must consider buying back Cubbie Station

Shadow River Murray Minister Adrian Pederick has called on the Federal Government to consider purchasing Australia's largest cotton farm, Cubbie Station.

"This is a prime opportunity to buy back water licences from one of the world's largest private irrigation projects," Mr Pederick said.

Cubbie Station holds permits to store more than 500,000 megalitres of water, currently the station is running 34% of capacity.

The Rudd government was elected in 2007 on a platform of ending the blame game over water, telling voters it would takeover the nation's entire Murray Darling river system to end State bickering.

The time for talking is over, the Rann government needs to pressure its Labor mates in Victoria, NSW and Queensland and achieve real reform that will help the forgotten people of the Lower Lakes.

"The acquisition, valued at \$450 million, would benefit all states connected to the river, not just South Australia, but it must be demonstrated that the water will reach where it's needed," Mr Pederick said.