



MEDIA RELEASE

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- The River Murray
- Sustainability and Climate Change

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Dams not the answer and keep an open mind on water and energy alternatives says Pederick

Bigger dams and more dams and weirs are not the answer to South Australia's mounting water crisis and leaving any potentially climate-friendly energy generation method out of discussions is both pig-headed and foolish.

These conclusions were drawn by local MP, Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick on his return from last week's Greenhouse 2007; The Latest Science and Technology conference in Sydney, where the latest science, government initiatives and industry action were presented.

Climate change and its causes, water and energy source alternatives, carbon emissions trading and social and business adaptations to all these matters were examined at length, and while debate continues about causes, the general consensus is that climate change is a reality and must be addressed.

Mr Pederick said the four day conference featured presentations by many of the country's foremost scientists and researchers from leading universities, the CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology. Federal Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, The Hon Malcolm Turnbull also addressed the conference.

Mr Pederick said the quality and quantity of information disseminated was exceptional but that, unsurprisingly, there was no silver bullet on offer. He particularly noted several items of special significance to South Australia.

'The strong feeling was that more dams or bigger dams are not a solution to water supply problems. The focus clearly has to be on other sources and reducing demand through greater efficiency and more judicious use,' Mr Pederick said.

'Another issue receiving much attention was the Nuclear Energy option. It was abundantly clear that, like it or not, Nuclear Energy is the only current option for climate-friendly base-load power generation.

'Clean coal has some appeal but the technology is yet to be fully developed and its ultimate cost is no more favourable than nuclear. Our situation in SA is pressing enough that all options should remain on the table for consideration.

'We also must redouble our endeavours to develop geo-thermal power – another potential emission free base-load energy source, and zero-emission wave-power technology working in tandem with desalination.

'In SA we have a Premier who will not even consider the nuclear energy option and has a minimalist vision for the potential of grey-water recycling. They may not be everyone's preferred options but we are fast running out of choices and to have a closed mind on available options to two of our most urgent needs is pig-headed and foolish,' Mr Pederick said.

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