

MEDIA RELEASE

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State government request highlights earlier inaction

The SA government's request to extend the potential life of the Clayton and Currency Creek regulators contrasts starkly with the imminent release of NSW floodwaters for the Lower Lakes, says local MP Adrian Pederick.

Mr Pederick, who is also Opposition spokesman for the River Murray said the request to extend the time frame highlighted the state government's earlier inaction on the river.

The federal government has responded to that request by insisting on an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) about the potential effects of such an action.

'Instead of negotiating strongly right from the start to avoid this looming environmental catastrophe, the state government sat and waited until the disaster began to unfold.

'They left themselves little option but to undertake controversial actions that continue to divide communities.

'The Clayton and Currency Creek regulators were pushed through hastily without an EIS. It will be interesting to see what comes out of this one that we should have known before those regulators went in.

'The Liberal opposition has always maintained that a freshwater solution was the only good option for the Coorong, river and lakes.

'The state and federal governments must redouble their efforts to find ways of hastening the regulators' removal, not prolonging it.'