

MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond

Shadow Minister for

The River Murray - Forests

Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

Friday January 8, 2010

End the blame game over water

The ailing Lower reaches of the River Murray won't see a drop of NSW floodwaters if left to NSW State Government generosity, Opposition River Murray spokesman Adrian Pederick said this morning.

"The NSW Government will do its utmost to capture every drop of these waters in the Menindee Lakes, and quite simply the surcharge trigger levels will never be met," Mr Pederick said.

Lake Pamamaroo and Lake Weatherell will never reach 640 gigalitres because the surcharge capacity of these two lakes is 615GL.

However, there is a little over 5500GL in storage across the Northern and Southern Basins, of which even a small amount would greatly assist the ailing lower reaches of the Murray, and address ongoing riverbank collapse around the Murray Bridge area.

"Surely given the dire conditions of South Australia's Lower Murray and Lakes, five percent of the water held in storages throughout the entire Murray Darling Basin could be released. We can not wait for NSW to decide," Mr Pederick said.

"This is yet another failing of the Rann Government and River Murray Minister Karlene Maywald, and further evidence that an independent Federal body must take over managerial control of the Murray Darling Basin before it is too late."