

MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond

Shadow Minister for

The River Murray - Forests

Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

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Expected huge inflow must be managed effectively

Expected heavy rainfalls in the Murray Darling catchment have the potential to produce another major flow into the Murray Darling system.

Shadow River Murray Minister Adrian Pederick said the possibility of such a huge inflow of water underlined the need for careful advanced planning to maximise the flow.

'Without proper management, the full value of a large flow could be lost.

'SA in particular stands to lose most from a poorly managed flow.

'Flood plain management, properly authorised diversions and effective storage will need careful planning and monitoring, and above all cooperation between the states.

'If it comes to pass, this flood could be the saviour for many SA irrigators and our parched environment, which remain balanced on a knife edge of survival.

'Our state government must have adequate measures in place to ensure a reasonable share of this water is made available to SA.

'An event like this will further demonstrate the need for a central body to manage the entire basin independent of current overriding powers enjoyed by upstream states.

'South Australia is running out of options and we must not repeat the mistakes of the past.'