

MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond and
Shadow Minister for the River Murray
and

Michael Pengilly MP - Member for Finniss

Monday December 22, 2008

Good news for Goolwa boating community

News that the Goolwa lock will be operating over Christmas and into the New Year have been welcomed by State opposition MPs, Adrian Pederick and Michael Pengilly.

Mr Pederick, Shadow River Murray Minister and Member for Hammond, said he and Mr Pengilly, Member for Finniss, had been looking for solutions to various problems around the Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth for the past two years.

Mr Pederick was commenting on last Friday's announcement that the Goolwa lock would operate for limited hours each day until further notice. Some restrictions apply.

'While this is not a solution to the big problem of low flows in the river and lakes, it does at least provide some relief for the Goolwa community, for whom boating activity over the summer holidays is pivotal.

'This temporary solution should not affect the salinity levels in the lower Goolwa channel as pumps have been installed to equalise the lock level by pushing seawater back to the downstream side where the sea level is higher than the river.'

Mr Pederick said the method employed would be effective and was a long time coming.

'It makes you wonder why this action is only being taken now, when the problem has been evident for a considerable time.'