

MEDIA RELEASE

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Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

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Government must reassure lake communities on fish kill

The imminent fish kill in Lake Albert presents several issues for local communities that must be addressed says local MP Adrian Pederick.

Mr Pederick, who is also Shadow Minister for Fisheries, said it is inevitable that hundreds of tonnes of fish will die as the lake level drops and salinity rises to become excessive during this summer.

'The state government's 'Fish Down' trial was started too late to be truly effective. It was well supported by local commercial fishermen but falling lake levels will prevent boat access.

'There are hundreds of tonnes of fish still in the lake that literally have nowhere to go as water quality deteriorates.

'Apart from the lake getting too shallow to navigate, the lake bed will be hazardous for land vehicles such as bulldozers and tractors. This will leave countless thousands of fish carcasses stranded in the hot sun.

'The potential effect and consequent impact on local communities are all too obvious.

'They need to know how the government proposes to tackle this looming problem to minimise those consequences.

'I call on the government to work with local communities and councils to find effective and innovative ways of managing this disaster, actions which the government must fully fund.