

MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond

Shadow Minister for

The River Murray

Agriculture, Food and Fisheries – Forests

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What about our irrigators Mr Rann?

While Mr Pederick has welcomed the rise in irrigation allocations to 5 per cent of licensed water entitlements, he has called on the Government to supply adequate water for permanent plantings.

“Without the necessary water, the future of permanent plantings is damaged for much more than a season or two, some have taken generations to grow and maintain,” Mr Pederick said.

“We must protect these as a matter of importance.”

The Liberals have pushed for water to keep permanent plantings alive, and were disheartened when told arrangements were dependent on deals done with other states.

“It would have been reassuring for irrigators to know that a specific amount had been earmarked that was not dependent on federal government support – such as the latest allocation increase, made possible by a 25-gigalitre advance to SA and other Murray-Darling Basin states,” Mr Pederick said.

“It seems pointless that on one hand the Rann Government spends \$23 million in 08-09 on 61 gigalitres of critical water allocations to assist permanent plantings, but then fails to stand up for the State’s irrigators on the next.”