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Adrian Pederick MP

Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Shadow Minister for Forests

Labor breaks promise over river regulator removal

Residents of the Lower Lakes are incensed at the news that the removal of the regulators at Clayton and Narrung will not restore the river to its former condition.

The Minister's water spokesman has confirmed that it will not be able to remove all the 165,000 cubic metres of material used to block the River Murray at Clayton.

It is anticipated that much of it will remain in the river channel, as it has at Narrung.

Local MP Adrian Pederick said this was a major breach of faith by the government who promised the river would be restored to its pre-regulator condition.

'Residents were fearful that the river environment would be irreversibly changed by this action, but the Minister's department gave communities absolute assurances all material would be removed.

'Now we learn that through a combination of funding constraints and practical impossibilities complete restoration will not occur.

'The situation at Narrung is similar with major changes to the Narrows bathymetry leaving many uncertainties for locals desperately trying to re-establish what was once a gem in South Australia's dairy crown.

'On top of these, the Currency Creek bund is presenting complications that have never been faced before. Goodness knows how or when that will be removed.

'And it must be said the government ignored workable, non-invasive alternatives to damming proposed by the community at the time that would have been less destructive.

'The community have every right to be outraged by this. All the government's glib assurances are being watered down now they are being called on to deliver as promised.

'This is indicative of the SA Labor government culture of giving blind assurances to South Australians without either the knowledge or intention to back up those promises.

'In government, Liberal members will fight for their electorates – city and country.'

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