



MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond
Parliamentary Secretary to the Liberal Leader for
- The River Murray
- Sustainability and Climate Change

Monday July 7th, 2008

Rudd, Rann and Maywald take South Australians for fools says Pederick

Last week's COAG agreement and Prime Minister Rudd's visit to the Lower Lakes has added insult to injury for the River Murray and Lower Lakes and the communities around them according to local State MP and acting Shadow Water Security Minister Adrian Pederick.

Mr Pederick said the COAG agreement, enthusiastically trumpeted by SA Premier Mike Rann and his Water Security Minister Karlene Maywald, appeared to take South Australians for fools.

'They have presented this as the great saviour of the river and lakes system but, in fact, it offers nothing at all for the system's survival. All they've done is ensured the river's dying throes are better distributed until it ceases to flow,' Mr Pederick said.

'The solutions they offer on water supply at the bottom of the river are welcomed in themselves, but they do nothing for the short or long term health of this vital eco-system.

'Worse still, as my Parliamentary colleague Rob Kerin, a former member of the Murray-Darling Ministerial council, points out the so-called independent authority has no powers at all. It is literally independent of authority.

'What Rann and Rudd and the other Labor leaders have done is enshrine in a new agreement the same problems that have beset management of the Murray-Darling Basin for decades.

'The much vaunted Memorandum of Understanding states, "The MOU affirms the autonomy of the Basin States to manage water and other natural resources within their catchments". This agreement hasn't changed anything; it's just reconfirmed the worst aspects of the same old problem.

'So while the Labor governments around the country pat themselves on the back and the duped public breathe a collective sigh of relief, the river and lakes continue their slow and painful death.

Mr Pederick said the Prime Minister's visit to Milang on Saturday typified Labor's lack of understanding of the real problem, its ignorance of the facts and its contempt for river and lakes communities.

"By declaring the disaster in the Lower Lakes as a symptom of climate change, Prime Minister Rudd has made it plain to the whole world that he knows little and understands nothing about the real causes and effects.

'For him to seek to push his own agenda on climate change by referring to the crisis on the Lower Lakes as a product of climate change is either ignorant or arrogant - or both. And

Contact: Adrian Pederick 0429 692 921

for Premier Rann and Minister Maywald to endorse his remarks by their silence is an insult to the intelligence of all South Australians.'

Contact: Adrian Pederick 0429 692 921