

MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond

Shadow Minister for

River Murray – Sustainability and Climate Change

Agriculture, Food and Fisheries – Forests

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Pederick seeks clarification on Laffin's Point weir proposal

A simple question about a proposal to build a possible weir at Laffin's Point near Goolwa raised uproar in the House of Assembly last week.

Shadow Minister for the River Murray and Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick asked the government to state its position on the proposal to clarify confusion in the community.

Mr Pederick said he was receiving enquiries about the proposal from the public, anxious to clarify conflicting stories about the government's intentions that were leading to rumour and uncertainty.

'My question was simple. I asked "Does the government support the proposal to construct a weir or similar at Laffin's Point, just upstream of Goolwa",' Mr Pederick said.

'The matter is causing great concern among communities at the end of the river, leading to all sorts of doubts and uncertainties for residents and business.

'It is common knowledge the government is considering several proposals to maintain water levels in the Goolwa channel, and I have it on good authority that the Laffin's Point proposal has already been ruled out,' Mr Pederick said.

'With the peak tourist season almost on us, I sought to give government an opportunity to confirm this – for everyone's sake.

'Instead of taking the opportunity to give South Australians a straight, simple answer, Minister Maywald launched a hostile attack on the Opposition, accusing us of playing politics with the matter.

'The Minister delivered a long and un-necessary reply in which she insisted the government had no intention of blocking off the river. Yet, she agreed that they were looking at proposals to do just that – temporarily or otherwise.

'All I wanted to do was to have the government publicly confirm whether or not the Laffin's Point proposal was ruled out. I neither said nor implied anything about secrecy. Minister Maywald's unprovoked insistence the government had no secret agenda had the opposite effect, leaving us all wondering just what is going on.

'So, instead of giving a simple answer to a simple question to clear up a confusing rumour, the minister left the direct question unanswered and in the process raised other doubts.'

Mr Pederick said he was not intimidated by Minister Maywald's hostile response and would continue to ask the hard questions on behalf of the community.