

MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond

Opposition Whip

Shadow Minister for

Agriculture, Food & Fisheries and Forests

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir/Madam

As a vigorous opponent of a weir at Wellington since Premier Rann's first shock announcement in November 2006, I, along with the rest of the river and lakes communities, am delighted and relieved to hear the plan has been cancelled.

Over the past four years I attended scores of meetings up and down the river and interstate, wrote countless letters and spoke many times on radio and television about the matter.

I acknowledge and applaud the resolute effort of the many community groups and individuals around the river and lakes who also fought hard against a weir. I supported them in their efforts and was grateful for their support of mine.

The sense of relief with this decision must not cloud the fact that the weir was a battle in a larger war – the fight for SA's right to a healthy river and lakes environment, on which the entire Murray Darling Basin ultimately depends.

The new frontline in this war is the debate over the future management of the river, with the Murray Darling Basin Authority's guide at the epicentre of the discussions. We must all bear in mind the MDBA's plan as announced is not a blueprint for a 'done deal', it is a first draft for consideration and discussion.

I urge everyone, especially the state government, to remain engaged in thoughtful, constructive discussion to ensure a fair and equitable outcome for all – communities, irrigators and the environment.

Yours etc

Adrian Pederick MP JP

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