

The Advertiser
Letters to the Editor
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Sir,

The state government's recent announcement of an additional 10 percent water allocation to irrigators is good news, although it doesn't solve everyone's problems.

Many of the state's important food production industries are already on their knees. The flagship wine industry is struggling to get through this awful season but if rain or other water supply alternatives are not 'on stream' soon, the next season will bring many of them undone.

Annual plantings such as citrus are in dire trouble because their loss will affect production for many years to come.

The dairy industry, which boasted exceptional production in quality, quantity and notably efficiency, has already been decimated and may never recover to anything like its former strength – if at all.

Even tourism is suffering from the public's perception that there's no water in the river and lakes, which is simply not the case. But 'disaster' sells newspapers so the truth that there is plenty of water for recreation is not getting out.

So much focus has been on the Riverland, the SA public needs to be reminded of the enormous contribution the Lower Murray and Lakes producers have made to the state's economy and way of life.

Many of them have reluctantly accepted their fate and are either restructuring their farming pursuits or simply getting out.

Country SA may never be the same again.

Talk of weirs and reduced flows and the attitude some of up-streamers to the health and survival of the Lower Murray and Lakes and their communities is ignorant in the extreme.

The river must live. Low-flow rivers are dying rivers. No-flow rivers are dead.

Who wants to explain that to their grandchildren?

Yours sincerely



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Member for Hammond

Parliamentary Secretary to the Liberal Leader for - River Murray

Parliamentary Secretary to the Liberal Leader for - Sustainability and Climate Change

Deputy Opposition Whip