



MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

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

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Pederick says Lower Lakes at breaking point

The situation for people around the Lower Lakes is almost at breaking point according to SA's Acting Shadow Water Security Minister and Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick.

As a last ditch effort begins to save Lake Albert from permanent damage by acid sulphate soils, many families and communities on the Narrung Peninsula and around the shores of the lake find themselves with no water at all.

'For people living near the largest freshwater lakes system in Australia, that is hard to accept,' said Mr Pederick. 'That they are receiving little or no help from the state government to ease their plight is unforgivable.'

'Given that Mr Rann's big announcement in November 2006 of a weir at Wellington would have produced exactly the same outcome for lake-dwellers - no access to fresh water in the lakes - and still could, it is beyond belief that there are still no real plans in place to deal with this.'

'No adequate alternative water supply has been proposed for these South Australian citizens whose contribution to the state's economy has apparently been ignored.'

Mr Pederick said the slow and inept response of State Premier Mike Rann and Water Security Minister Karlene Maywald was being matched by their new federal counterparts – Prime Minister Rudd and Water Minister Penny Wong, neither of whom had visited the region as yet.

'Mr Rudd promised all Australians equity and access to water,' Mr Pederick said. 'Then he got elected and now we find thousands of Lower Lakes dwellers left to fend for themselves.'

'While some residents in the region are being supplied with water, their neighbours can't even get assistance with carting costs – let alone a piped supply.'

'The Lower Lakes need water. I know there's very little available but if informed decisions aren't made soon on a new management regime for the entire Murray Darling Basin, there'll be no water available to them even when the drought does break.'

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