

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Adrian Pederick MP JP**

Member for Hammond

**Shadow Minister for**

**The River Murray - Forests**

**Agriculture, Food and Fisheries**

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#### **Government still playing catch-up on water security**

News from CSIRO that stormwater can be simply and cheaply made drinkable supports the state opposition's stance on Adelaide's water security according to Shadow River Murray Minister Adrian Pederick.

Mr Pederick said despite the demonstrable success of wetland schemes in Salisbury in recent years, the state government had not given stormwater enough credit as a quick and cost effective alternative source to ease SA's dependence on the Murray.

'Stormwater was an integral part of the Liberal party's proposal to wean the state off the ailing river,' Mr Pederick said.

'We have said for some time that the solution lay in adopting a suite of measures; stormwater capture and reuse, greywater recycling, sewage mining and desalination.

'We presented three of these proposals to the parliament as long ago as November 2006. The government were ignorant of the looming problem and dismissive of the need to plan for it.

'Eventually, they conceded the problem was real. Their best solution was to massively increase the size of Mt Bold reservoir, which only increased the drain on the Murray.

'Belatedly, they picked up our idea of a desalination plant. But, still lacking faith in other supply options, they doubled the plant's original size, greatly increasing the cost.

'They've been playing catch-up on water security policy ever since, eventually adopting our proposals. By this time, complications for irrigators and the environment have dramatically increased.

'This announcement of the development of simple, cost effective methods of producing potable water from stormwater is great news for SA.

'The shame of it is that this government acted so late on all these alternatives as to put the health and survival of the River Murray and Lower Lakes at far greater risk.'