



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Adrian Pederick MP JP**

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

Tuesday July 17, 2007

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### **EIS demand thwarts SA government's 'Rocky Horror Show' at Wellington**

Local MP Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick, who is also the Liberal Opposition's Parliamentary Secretary for the River Murray, says that news of the Australian Government's insistence that a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) be conducted before construction of a weir at Wellington could begin has justified the State Liberals' policy against the proposal and the widespread community outcry over it.

'This was always a knee-jerk reaction announced by the State government without any forethought. The plan completely ignored all previous studies on the same idea and appears to have been encouraged by a few people who didn't understand the river and wanted to circumvent the system,' Mr Pederick said.

'You only have to consider a statement made at a meeting at SA Water House on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007, where it was "strongly suggested that a trial embankment be constructed from Pomanda Island ... as soon as possible" to realise how close it was.'

'If they had had their way, this 700,000 tonne rock wall could well have been half built by now and much of the potential environmental damage would have occurred – even if they not closed it off completely.

'If the government hadn't realised by then that proceeding was political as well as environmental suicide, their 'Rocky Horror Show' would have started.

'The Liberal Party believes the EIS will show this plan up as an environmental catastrophe that would have cost the state hundreds of millions of dollars to build yet provide no long term solution to our water woes.

'Hopefully, this will put a permanent end to this short-sighted idea and we won't have to keep revisiting it every five or ten years.'

Mr Pederick, along with State Liberal Leader Martin Hamilton-Smith and five other State Liberal parliamentarians, toured the Lower Lakes and Wellington last week to inspect the region and meet with locals.

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