



MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond

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'Leave Mallee aquifer alone' says Pederick

Local MP, Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick, who was recently appointed the State Opposition's Parliamentary Secretary for the River Murray and Sustainability and Climate Change, has issued a statement that he categorically does not support the transfer of groundwater from the Mallee Wells aquifer to bolster dwindling River Murray levels.

Mr Pederick's comments follow a recent comment by State Independent MP Bob Such that the reserves of water in the aquifer were huge and it could be piped to the River Murray as a 'one-off' to ease the current crisis.

'The resource is currently undergoing volumetric conversion and quantity and quality of water in this aquifer is also currently under discussion as it is the main water supply for the southern Mallee,' said Mr Pederick.

'There is already great concern in the region that the aquifer not be over-stressed and getting the mix right between irrigators and stock and domestic use is a priority.

'As far as I am concerned, there is no way this aquifer can be used to support the river in this way.

'To raid this source without detailed information and careful planning might simply transfer the state's water woes from one community to another, as is the case with the Wellington weir proposal. And, like the weir, it's another short term fix with problematic time constraints and a big price tag.

'All Australians have to get out of this mindset that because someone else has taken 'our' water (through over-allocation throughout the Murray Darling Basin), it's OK to take someone else's.

'I believe the answer to Adelaide's water worries laps at our shores and lands on our rooves. We should be making all haste to get these things happening and not be distracted or confused by 'rabbit out of the hat' solutions like this,' said Mr Pederick.

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