

MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond

Shadow Minister for

River Murray – Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

Mineral Resources Development – Forests

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Minister avoids answering question on Lakes water

The government is avoiding answering critical questions about the river and lakes according to Shadow River Murray Minister Adrian Pederick.

Mr Pederick, the Member for Hammond, said he asked the Minister for The River Murray in Question Time how she would ensure that an adequate amount of water would be attained to save the Lower Lakes.

The question followed the Federal Environment Minister Garrett's announcement yesterday that the SA government's proposal to place temporary flow regulators across the Finniss River, Currency Creek and the River Murray near Clayton could proceed without an Environmental Impact Statement.

In his announcement Mr Garrett included the requirement that the state government provide an additional 50 gigalitres of freshwater into the Lower Lakes.

'I've been calling for 30 gl to assist the lakes survival for months, and each time been told by the Premier or Minister Maywald that it wasn't available, wouldn't help or would just be lost,' Mr Pederick said.

'If it's not available, wouldn't help or would just be lost, why didn't they tell Mr Garrett that?'

'Recently we heard Premier Rann say he would acquire water for the lakes and now we are told the state government can find 50 gl for the purpose.'

'But, instead of answering my question and clarifying the position for the benefit of all South Australians, Minister Maywald merely suggested I 'just don't get it'.'

'That is an insult not just to me but to every South Australian who wants to know how the government is dealing with the situation. I can take the insult but the public shouldn't be expected to wear that sort of flippant response.'

'I ask the minister again publicly, what steps is she taking to ensure that an adequate amount of water to save the Lower Lakes is attained?'

'As always, this government's actions are too little and too late.'