

MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond

Shadow Minister for

River Murray – Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

Mineral Resources Development – Forests

Friday June 5th, 2009

Minister's reply insults lakes communities

The state government's refusal to commit funds to provide water for the critical human needs of residents of two lakes communities demonstrates its disregard for country SA says local MP Adrian Pederick.

In Parliament on June 4th, Mr Pederick, who is also Shadow Minister for the River Murray, asked Water Security Minister Karlene Maywald why no decision had been made on the pipeline proposals.

Mr Pederick explained the two projects had a combined cost of \$7.3 million, which he said was a modest amount compared to similar projects.

'In her reply Minister Maywald said the decision was dependent on progress with other federally funded projects. If there were any funds left over, they would consider Point Sturt and Hindmarsh Island.

'These communities have been seeking assistance for nearly two years and have been given all sorts of excuses and endured numerous delays and disappointments since.

'What Minister Maywald is saying is that Premier Rann's government is not prepared to commit its own funds to carry out simple and inexpensive but urgently needed works immediately.

'The Minister suggested residents of those places had access to piped water supply and all they had to do was pay up. 'As a country resident herself, the Minister would have to know how insulting that response is.

'These South Australians are in a desperate situation, which is in part a consequence of government mismanagement and inaction.

'They have critical human needs this government refuses to address, despite the immediate availability of an inexpensive solution.

'Instead, they are forced to endure many more months of uncertainty and expense before a decision is made – let alone work started.

'For the minister to insist that we are at the mercy of the federal government ignores the obvious question – why can't the state cover this modest cost?'