

MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond

Shadow Minister for

The River Murray – Sustainability and Climate Change

Agriculture, Food and Fisheries – Forests

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Minister dodges the question on pipeline

Recently appointed Shadow Minister for the River Murray, Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick, says his first question as Shadow to the Minister for Water Security had been sidestepped, avoiding a simple answer.

‘I asked the Minister for Water Security Karlene Maywald if all Lower Lakes residents currently dependent on the lakes for stock and domestic water would be supplied by the proposed, federally-funded pipelines,’ Mr Pederick said.

‘The minister was unable to give me a straight yes or no. Instead, her reply was a government message that shrouded the real answer, making it obvious some will miss out.

‘After a party political statement talking up the plan as a state initiative when I believe it was in fact a community initiative, Minister Maywald said they were applying to the federal government for funding for the pipeline.

‘But Minister Maywald’s reply to my simple question was “... we will endeavour to make sure that the maximum number of people possible can be connected to the pipeline”.

‘This is Labor government-speak for “No”. ‘The people of the region need either water or straight answers now to enable them to make major decisions.’

‘Six months ago the community requested support on the cost of water cartage and apart from the request being acknowledged, the Minister has never given them an answer.’

Mr Pederick said the plan, while welcome, had come far too late for some whose businesses, families and personal health had already suffered.

‘The Minister’s vague answer then begs other questions; what will be the criteria for access; will there be any opportunity for connection with a partial contribution and failing all this will there be any other form of assistance offered such as water carting subsidies?’