

MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond

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The River Murray - Forests

Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

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NSW Uni report backs state Liberals' stand on river and lakes

A University of NSW report urging abandonment of plans to build a weir at Wellington and flood the Lower Lakes with seawater has reinforced the position taken by the state opposition says local MP Adrian Pederick.

'From the first moment three years ago when Premier Mike Rann trumpeted a weir at Wellington, I have opposed it,' said Mr Pederick, now Shadow River Murray Minister.

'The subsequent plan to let the sea into the lakes was similarly opposed. These plans were only ever short-term fixes with long-term consequences.

'They ignored the underlying causes that were hidden behind drought - decades of mismanagement and rampant over-allocation of the river.

'I understand how some might see those plans as acceptable, but they don't fix the real problem – they add to it.

'Unless and until the river is brought under central control that overrides each state's personal interests and the river's health made a priority, South Australia will make all the major sacrifices and some of them will be irreversible.

'For nearly eight years the Rann Government has failed to address South Australia's water crisis, this has been a fundamental policy failure of a tired, out of touch government.

'We cannot leave it for future generations to clean up our mess.'