

MEDIA RELEASE

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Narrung bund coming out – but two more still remain

Work to remove the Narrung bund should have been finished months ago says a local MP.

Adrian Pederick, whose electorate covers most of the Lower Lakes says local residents will be relieved work has finally started on removing the remainder of the bund.

‘The bund had served its purpose by last September when 100 metres was removed allowing very limited flow between lakes Alexandrina and Albert. Given that funding for full removal was provided three years ago in the original budget of \$6 million, which was later increased by a further \$8 million, it should have been removed completely last year.

‘The people of the region suffered more than most through the drought, first with low levels making water inaccessible, then, when flows returned, high salinity as a result of the lack of adequate flow between the two lakes.

‘Salinity in Lake Alexandrina is back down to 640EC units. Despite being partially reconnected last September, Lake Albert is over 6400EC – ten times as much and totally unusable for any purpose. Licence holders paid for water they could not use, despite the 67 per cent allocation.

‘Full flow between the lakes is critical to Lake Albert’s recovery, and that of the primary industry that surrounds it.

‘The best opportunity to take advantage of the exceptional river flows has already passed. Flows are slowing and levels are settling.

‘The delay in the bund’s removal was purely a product of fund management. The Rann government used the money on another part of the project, gambling that river flows would take years to return before they had to cough up for full removal.

‘Attention now shifts to the bunds at Clayton and Currency Creek. The Environmental Impact Statement on them declared they must be removed by May 2011. While a section has been removed at Clayton, the resultant partial flow has caused extensive silting of the river bed downstream, further compromising the river environment and greatly complicating the complete removal as required by the EIS.

‘I call on the Rann government to honour the agreement and ensure the river channel at Clayton and Currency Creek is fully removed immediately.’

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