

MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

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The River Murray - Forests

Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

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Pour effort into water saving measures says Pederick

Buying back water entitlements will not fix the Murray unless it is done in conjunction with improving the infrastructure that stores and delivers that water.

This comment came from SA Shadow River Murray Minister Adrian Pederick in response to Tuesday's announcement by Federal Water Minister Penny Wong that \$300 million would be brought forward to buy more water in the Murray Darling Basin.

'We don't want to appear ungrateful or against this advanced buy-back but acquiring water is only half the problem,' Mr Pederick said.

'Archaic water transfer and irrigation practices in NSW and Victoria diminish the real value of water purchased for the river.

'It's like stuffing money into pockets that have holes in them.

'I call on the federal government to accelerate its actions to improve water infrastructure.

'Without that, some of the buy-back money spent will go where the water goes – down the gurgler or into thin air.'