

MEDIA RELEASE

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Agriculture, Food and Fisheries – Forests

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Decision another brick in the weir wall

News that the Federal Environment Minister has approved the construction of a causeway at Pomanda Point to facilitate building a weir at Wellington has drawn sharp criticism from the state opposition.

Shadow River Murray Minister Adrian Pederick said Mr Garrett's decision to deem the South Australian government's proposal "not a controlled action" under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 was highly contentious.

'It seems to me, given the height of the proposed causeway and its location across a 1.6km wide swamp sitting on porous sand, that it is very much part of the weir. Without it, the proposed weir will not stem the river's flow.

'It should therefore have been treated as part of the weir proposal, already deemed a controlled action, and be subject to that Environmental Impact Statement, which is yet to be released.

'This is just another step along the government's path to build the weir.

'It's disappointing that they will spend \$14 million on this project but won't buy any water for the lower lakes.

"Mr Garrett's credibility as a former conservation activist is on a par with Premier Rann's concern for our state's unique environment – non-existent.