

MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond
**Shadow Minister for
The River Murray - Forests
Agriculture, Food and Fisheries**

Wednesday March 11, 2010

Rann deceiving South Australians on the lakes

Labor Premier Rann is misleading South Australians about the Liberal Party's position on the Lower lakes.

Opposition River Murray spokesman Adrian Pederick said Rann's statement that the Liberals are prepared to sacrifice the lakes is patently dishonest.

Mr Pederick was responding to Mr Rann's media release in which he claimed the Liberals were 'the only South Australians prepared to sacrifice the health of the Lakes'.

'I remind South Australians that Labor Premier Rann is the man who in November 2006 proposed building a weir at Wellington,' Mr Pederick said.

'It was the Rann Labor government that applied to the federal government in December 2008 to allow seawater into the Lower Lakes.

'It was the Rann Labor government who in February 2009 ignored a sensible, rational proposal to deal with the lakes' acidification with a freshwater approach.

'It was Labor Premier Rann himself who said in December 2008 that the lakes were 'turned into freshwater lakes some decades before', demonstrating his complete ignorance of the scientific proof that the lakes have been fresh for 99 per cent of the past 7000 years.

'My Liberal colleagues and I have made dozens of visits all around the lakes. Mr Rann has been there once and that was a secret visit to avoid contact with the general public.

'The Liberal party has consistently fought against the Rann government's carelessness and ignorance on the Lower Lakes. We coined the expression 'freshwater solution'.

'For Rann to come out now proclaiming his government's commitment to a 'freshwater solution' for the lakes is laughable.

'It's typical of his government to follow the Liberals' lead on major issues – especially where water is concerned, then boldly take the credit for it.

'South Australians know who has fought for the lakes. They will not be fooled by Mike Rann's deception.'

'A Redmond Liberal government will continue to fight for a freshwater solution to the problems of the Lower Lakes.