

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Adrian Pederick MP JP**

Member for Hammond

**Shadow Minister for**

**River Murray – Agriculture, Food and Fisheries**

**Mineral Resources Development – Forests**

Tuesday May 26, 2009

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### **Rann confuses again on the lakes' future**

Once again Premier Rann has confused the whole state, and possibly the nation, with a contradictory statement on the health and future of the River Murray and Lower Lakes says Shadow Minister for the River Murray and Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick.

'On ABC radio early this week, in answer to the question 'So seawater will follow the weir as night follows day', Mr Rann replied 'it would have to ...'.

'I and about 20 others were present at a meeting in Murray Bridge on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at which a slide presentation of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Wellington weir included the blunt statement – 'The Weir does not equal seawater.'

'That presentation had been made to hundreds of other South Australians at a series of meetings around the Lower Lakes in late March, again displaying the message 'The Weir does not equal seawater'.

'I ask the Premier, which part of that short statement is open to interpretation?

'This Premier has shown little understanding of the facts of the river and lakes, little care for the environment, little regard for his own department and little respect for river and lakes communities.

'This is the man who recently declared the lakes used to be saltwater, despite statements to the contrary published by his own department.

'This is the man who in his ignorance or naivety has bargained away South Australia's rights to a fair share of the river.

'This is the man who is preparing to take legal action against an agreement he himself championed not twelve months ago.

'This is the man who only took direct action to get water for the lakes two months ago, and that was more about political expediency than concern for the environment and the thousands of South Australians who depend on it.

'This is a Premier with no credibility.'