

MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond

Shadow Minister for

River Murray – Sustainability and Climate Change

Agriculture, Food and Fisheries – Forests

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Rann's credibility on water sinks to the bottom

Premier Rann's credibility on river and lakes management has finally sunk to the bottom says opposition River Murray spokesman Adrian Pederick.

In a passionate speech in the House of Assembly a visibly irate Mr Pederick rounded on the Premier and his Water Security/River Murray Minister Karlene Maywald, damning them for playing politics as the river and lakes dry up.

'During the past year I and the SA Liberal party have been pushing for water acquisition for river health and challenging the effectiveness of the COAG agreement on management and water trading,' Mr Pederick said.

'I've been accused of making mischief, exaggerating facts, misleading the public and giving South Australians false hope.

'Yet now, with the horse well and truly bolted and almost out of sight, Mr Rann's state Labor government is taking up all the things we've been demanding.

'After two years and four months Mr Rann's finally acknowledged there are thousands of people and a whole environment below Wellington, for which he and his government are currently responsible.

'My biggest fear here is this is just another one of this premier's window-dressing publicity stunts – more empty promises made to be seen to be doing something.

'Let's see if he has the courage to follow through on any of these bold statements or whether he just shrinks back, as usual, behind his long suffering ministers who invariably cop the flak for his ineptness.

'Time for the river and lakes is well and truly up. Prime Minister Rudd must step up now and use his constitutional powers to take complete control of the country's biggest river system and save the delay and expense of a High Court wrangle between the states.'