



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Adrian Pederick MP JP**

Member for Hammond  
Parliamentary Secretary to the Liberal Leader for  
- The River Murray  
- Sustainability and Climate Change

Monday November 19, 2007

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### **River Murray management bungled - Pederick**

In Parliament last week, local MP Adrian Pederick was deeply critical of the State Government's management of the River Murray, which is severely depleted due to the current drought and years of over-allocation.

Mr Pederick, the Member for Hammond and the Opposition's Parliamentary Secretary for the River Murray moved that the House express its 'dismay at this government's inability to manage the River Murray in South Australia through a drought that is as much man-made as it is climatic.'

Mr Pederick said the river was not just a source of water but was the state's 'environmental and economic cornerstone'.

Among the points raised, Mr Pederick referred to the Wellington weir proposal, describing the original announcement as 'impractical, vastly understated in cost, socially divisive and environmentally catastrophic'.

He said the government's procrastination on a full Environmental Impact Statement - which was eventually commissioned several weeks ago - and efforts to avoid one being undertaken at all smacked of desperation and mismanagement.

'The recent announcement of a plan to extend Mt Bold is also flawed as it not only presents a whole new field of battle for the environment but will draw even further on the River Murray.'

'With Murray water being piped to Eyre Peninsula, you would think this government would be more anxious to maintain its West Coast infrastructure properly and encourage locals to proceed with plans for locally funded desalination plants rather than stand in their way.'

Mr Pederick said delays in introducing worthwhile water saving incentive schemes and waiving water licence transfer fees had added significantly to the woes of irrigators along the River Murray.

'The SA government has bungled every aspect of management of the state's water crisis. From allocations to backyard gardens, they've managed to upset everyone.'

Mr Pederick pointed out that many of the water-saving initiatives currently in operation in SA were promoted by the former Liberal government, and even in Opposition, the Liberals were proactive in talking to irrigators to find solutions.

Mr Pederick was well supported in the debate by liberal colleagues Michael Pengilly (Finniss), Ivan Venning (Schubert) and Shadow Minister for Water Security Mitch Williams (MacKillop), who described the motion as probably the most important one this year.

The full text of the debate can be seen on Parliament SA's website in Hansard for November 15<sup>th</sup> or on Mr Pederick's website, [www.adrianpederick.com](http://www.adrianpederick.com)

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