

MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond
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Shadow Minister for
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Thursday June 10, 2010

SA Liberal MPs look for answers at Menindee Lakes

The Labor governments' lack of action on important works at Menindee Lakes has local MP Adrian Pederick angry and frustrated.

Mr Pederick and several of his parliamentary colleagues visited Broken Hill and the Menindee Lakes in early June on a fact-finding exercise. From previous visits, Mr Pederick knew the potential for waste by the lakes system's current structure.

'Broken Hill has a requirement for 10 gigitalitres (gl) of water per year. Currently, the plan calls for a minimum reserve of 245gl over 20 months to meet that 10gl need,' he said.

'The way the four major lakes are configured inevitably wastes enormous amounts of water through inefficient and inadequate storage and channelling options. Waste from the two big lakes Menindee and Cawndilla is huge and currently unavoidable.

'Four years ago, the federal government committed \$400 million to modify the lakes' system, and the two big lakes have been bone dry for eight years, presenting the perfect opportunity to carry out works.

'But between the federal, NSW and SA Labor governments, the best we've got is more studies. Various proposals have been before the Minister for years.

'Adding to my frustration is the knowledge that large quantities of recent floodwaters have been illegally diverted upstream of the lakes.

'Locals are incensed that the biggest flood in years has dwindled dramatically - well before reaching the lakes.

'SA will get some benefit from the floodwaters, as will other river communities upstream, but lack of proper controls and monitoring coupled with governments' complete inertia has greatly reduced that benefit.'

Caption

Fact-finding at the Menindee Lakes with Manager Barry Philp (2nd left), are SA Liberal Shadow Ministers; Michelle Lensink MLC – Environment , Adrian Pederick – Agriculture , Mitch Williams – River Murray and Water Security and member for Chaffey Tim Whetstone.