

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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Why are SA irrigators still on 15 percent?

Substantial increases in water allocations in NSW while South Australian irrigators struggle on 15 percent has raised the ire of many along the river.

Shadow Minister for the River Murray Adrian Pederick, member for Hammond, was commenting on a recent announcement by Water Security Minister Karlene Maywald that SA allocations would remain at 15 percent.

He said allocations to high security water licence holders in the NSW Murray and Murrumbidgee regions had been increased to 95 percent, while Lower Darling high security allocations were at 100 percent.

Mr Pederick said even Victoria's Murray and Goulburn high reliability allocations were at 24 and 21 percent respectively.

'I don't begrudge anyone a share of desperately needed water but having our irrigators at 15 percent seems most unfair. Are they taking advantage of the fact that SA irrigators are the most efficient in the country, or are Premier Rann and Minister Maywald being muscled by their eastern states counterparts again?'

'I appreciate that inflows are still well below average but, as Australians, we are all in the same boat. Upstreamers are fortunate that the passage of even minimal flows serves to preserve their river environment. But it seems our careful irrigators and our valuable environment have been hung out to dry.'

Mr Pederick said many parts of SA have enjoyed some relief from recent good rains, which have given the state a bit more breathing space.

'Most river towns have already recorded more than their December averages yet the government is still asking our food producers to go without.'