

MEDIA RELEASE

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Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

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Piping Murray to West Coast a Bandaid on a gaping wound

The decision to pump River Murray water to Ceduna shows just how devoid of common sense and inspiration the Rann government is says Shadow River Murray Minister Adrian Pederick.

Mr Pederick was responding to today's announcement that SA Water will pipe Murray water to the state's far West Coast.

'West Coast locals have been pushing this government for some time to develop alternative water sources – to no avail.

'As usual, this government buries its head in the sand and waits until the last possible moment, by which time it is forced to make incomprehensible decisions like this one.

'With all the mining development mooted for the state's north west, this is putting a Band-Aid on a gaping wound. It underlines what closed minds this government has to anything outside the metropolitan area.

'A desalination plant would have already been built by private funding if SA Water and the government had not been so petty about shared use of the existing water delivery infrastructure in the region.

'Whether it's an existing water entitlement or not, it shows a lack of imagination and forward thinking that other sources have not been constructively pursued.

'If this water was not required for the West Coast, it could have been a big help to struggling Murray corridor producers instead of buying them off with exit packages to the detriment of future food production..

'This government has been out of touch with regional SA for years and it's getting worse.'