



MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond

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SA being short-changed on answers about weir options - says Pederick

State Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick is asking the state government to take South Australians into its confidence and elaborate on what options they are considering other than a weir at Wellington to maintain the state's water supply, which is under siege from an extreme drought.

As opposition to the weir grows, not only from those near the lakes and river but also from around the state, so does the call for government to explain what other options it is looking at.

'We keep hearing that government is looking at a number of options and that a weir at Wellington is a "last resort" if the drought persists,' said Mr Pederick.

'Repeated requests to them to elaborate on those other options have been refused on the grounds that they didn't want to frighten people with possibilities that may not happen. Is a weir the only "last resort" option? Are suggestions like coffer dams around the river off-takes and floating pumps seen as possible alternatives to a weir or merely interim measures?'

Mr Pederick said the communities around the river and lakes still felt there was a problem with consultation. He praised the involvement of Dean Brown and Neil Andrew and their endeavours to keep the lines of communication open, but expressed concern that the government was keeping its cards too close to its chest.

'The government is asking for the public's support with things like water restrictions but is not sharing all the information to earn that support.'

'South Australians had trusted the government to look after the state's interests on water supply but they've been let down. To make matters worse, it now seems the government doesn't trust the public to listen to what other options are being considered.'

Mr Pederick said the public's concerns were compounded by there apparently being so many government ministers with an involvement.

'Each one throws in his or her two bob's worth, but the public is still being short-changed on answers,' he said.

Contact: Adrian Pederick 0429 692 921