

MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP

Shadow Minister for the River Murray,
Agriculture, Food & Fisheries and Forests

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Money's fine but where's the water?

Murray River irrigators are seeing little results from the apparent bigger spend per head of population in this state on water projects.

Despite being able to carry over all unused water into the 2010-2011 water year Murray River irrigators have been deserted by a Rann Labor Government more intent on doing deals with Labor mates than securing irrigators' futures.

Shadow River Murray Minister Adrian Pederick said despite being the most efficient with their water use South Australian irrigators are still struggling with less water than their interstate colleagues.

"Penny Wong is sprouting the news that more money has been spent per head of population on water projects in South Australia than upstream states," Mr Pederick said.

"These projects will be beneficial when they come on-line but in the meantime the Federal Rudd Government seems unwilling to simply negotiate with the Victorian Government on its water trading caps and the Lower Lakes are still crying out for water.

"Too much water is lost interstate due to inefficient practices.

"Penny Wong needs to force upstream states to improve their practices through better infrastructure to stop seepage and evaporation."