

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Adrian Pederick MP JP**

Member for Hammond

**Shadow Minister for**

**River Murray – Agriculture, Food and Fisheries**

**Mineral Resources Development – Forests**

Tuesday May 12, 2009

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## **Who's delusional now?**

Six days after his decision was due, Federal Minister for the Environment Peter Garrett has given the green light for the Clayton-Goolwa channel regulator.

The timing of his announcement (Federal Budget day) is not lost on the SA Liberals said Shadow Minister for the River Murray Adrian Pederick

'Will he next announce the flooding of the Lower Lakes with seawater on Christmas Day?

'The Minister has stated he does not require an Environmental Impact Statement to be prepared, even though Ramsar listed wetlands are involved.

'As a result, the consequences of the channel action will remain far from clear.'

Minister Garrett today also confirmed that the SA Government will supply 50 gigalitres of freshwater to the Lower Lakes.

'This is despite Water Minister Karlene Maywald stating last January that I was "delusional" in calling for 30 gigalitres for the Lower Lakes to buy them more time,' Mr Pederick said.

'In a media release on 18 January 2009, Minister for the River Murray Karlene Maywald said *"the State Opposition's (Shadow Minister Adrian Pederick's) suggestion that purchasing 30 gigalitres of water will save the Lower Lakes is delusional ... he is making statements that give false hope to people"*.

'According to the Referral of the Proposed Action, 27.5 gigalitres of water will be pumped from Lake Alexandrina into the channel. This leaves an additional 22.5 gigalitres for Lake Alexandrina.

'The Labor-sanctioned piecemeal approach to the Lower Lakes and Coorong is unacceptable. There were a total of three separate assessment processes underway on: the Goolwa Channel, the Wellington Weir; and opening the barrages to flood the Lower Lakes with sea water. The latter two are still undecided.

'The people of the Lakes deserve better.'