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Adrian Pederick MP

Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
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What took so long on bund removals?

The sense of relief at news of the imminent removal of the regulator in the River Murray at Clayton is tempered by the question “What took so long?”, says local MP Adrian Pederick.

‘The original proposal and promise was that it would be out by 6th May, 2011,’ Mr Pederick said.

‘Water levels began returning in earnest in late 2010 and by early 2011 it was apparent the required triggers would be reached.

‘But it took the state government until almost the May deadline to get around to begin sorting out the funding and the paperwork with the federal government and the Murray Darling Basin Authority.

‘If Minister Caica is expecting a warm thank you from the long suffering residents and businesses of the Lower Lakes, he’ll be disappointed, just as they were disappointed at enduring the state government’s broken promises and glib assurances.

‘We welcome the news that at last a start is being made but given the experience at Narrung, where administrative inertia and delays have brought about further complications with restoring the natural environment, there is a long way to go before the river channel is back to something close to normal.

‘Add to this the uncertainties about how – let alone when – to remove the Currency Creek bund and you begin to understand why locals simply do not trust this government and won’t be cracking the champagne over minister Caica’s announcement.’

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