



Media Release

After 8 long years what has the Rann Labor Government Saved?

Just what is going to be saved by the spending of \$3 billion with just 8 months to go before elections? Will it be Upper Spencer Gulf? Cheltenham Park? Adelaide Coastal Waters? South Coast of Adelaide? The River Murray? Family Irrigators? Lower Lakes? Coorong? South Australia is in a crisis of sustained environment insecurity.

Will Premier Mike Rann demand a State of Emergency in the Murray-Darling Basin, suspend the New National Water Market, and ensure enough freshwater flows over the border to ensure the sustainability of South Australia's environment, society and economy?

The environmental degradation and vandalism could have been prevented. The Government failed to secure a fair share of the Murray during the long drought despite South Australian minimal diversions and efficient irrigation industry.

The total volume of water diverted from the Murray-Darling Basin in the eleven years since 1997 was approximately 97,824 GL and South Australia's share of this water was a meagre 6% at an average of 549 GL/year for a total of 6,037 GL.

Adelaide's average consumption of water is 80 GL from the River Murray and can be as low as 40 GL in a wet year and 200 GL in a drought. 95% of all water diverted in the basin is for irrigation and a significant amount of that is exported.

CSIRO's Sustainability Yield's Project concluded in 2008 that there was no threat to the water supply of SA towns and the city of Adelaide from any of its climate models out to 2030. It also found that levels in the Lower Lakes will not fall below sea level from the same models. South Australians have been cheated from their fair share of the Murray to create the new privatised National Water Market and to push up the price of water.

There has been systemic failure in the management of this drought, water privatisation has failed – it is inevitable that a Royal Commission must be held. We must get the future right for future generations and secure water as a public trust.

[Fair Water Use \(Australia\)](#) and WAC Supporter has posted Terms of Reference for both Commissions which must be held to ensure accountability by Governments and their agencies before the next election.

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