



The Peak body for five landholder associations and 1600 irrigators in the Murray Valley

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## Media Release

### **SOUTHERN RIVERINA IRRIGATORS OPPOSED TO CALLS FOR WATER TO BE RELEASED FROM BASIN STORAGES**

Calls for water to be released from Basin storages to help the Lower Lakes have been labeled as irresponsible by Southern Riverina Irrigators chairman Ted Hatty.

Mr. Hatty said that the situation in the Lower Lakes requires urgent attention, however calling for water to be released from storages showed a lack of understanding as to just how dire the water situation is basin-wide.

"Information that we are getting from the NSW Department of Water and Energy indicates that any water held in storage at the moment will be required to meet critical human needs during the upcoming season" said Mr. Hatty. "Even as recently as last week we were told that currently there is not enough water to guarantee that our community supply system will be able to provide a stock and domestic supply! Raiding the dams to supply water for the Lower Lakes at the moment could realistically jeopardise Adelaide's and our own water supply later in the season."

Mr. Hatty stressed the need for alternative solutions for the Lower Lakes to be found immediately, as well as longer term management issues of the Lakes to be addressed.

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