

Toward A Low Intervention Strategy

1. *Work with local communities*
2. *Respect the knowledge and ideas of all local people*
3. *No sea water, no more weirs*
4. *Invest in mitigation, especially in high-risk areas, by planting, mulching and liming and ensuring minimal soil disturbance*
5. *Maintain sanctuaries for freshwater and land plants and animals*
6. *Protect endangered species*
7. *Sustainable management of all water resources (e.g. rivers, wetlands, reservoirs, bores) in the Murray - Darling Basin*
8. *Urge Adelaide to use water more wisely*
9. *Buy water for the environment*
10. *Ensure the Lakes and Coorong retain a capacity for recovery*

We can do this! Join in Murray March

A joint action of the
River, Lakes and Coorong Action Group Inc
Lower Lakes and Coorong Infrastructure Committee
Finniss Catchment Group Inc
Senator Nick Xenophon, Independent
Senator Sarah Hanson-Young, The Greens
David Winderlich MLC, Democrats

Launch: Joint Press Conference,
March 6, 12.30 pm Torrens Weir

Events, information, contact www.hurrysavethemurray.com

Look for the *Save the Turtle Stall* at events.

Learn more, get your t-shirt
www.moshcc.com.au

Write a letter, send an
email, text and call. See
www.hurrysavethemurray.com
for addresses and numbers.



Send Premier Rann a 'No Weir' Postcard.

Call talk back radio. Ask questions. Demand answers.

Talk to your friends, family, work-mates. Tell them about the Low Intervention Strategy. It's only a beginning. It needs your advice and energy. This is our future, the future for our children and grandchildren.

Volunteer. We need your help to sustain the campaign.
Contact www.hurrysavethemurray.com

Read *Australia's River*, a new publication of the River, Lakes and Coorong Action Group Inc. www.stophtheweir.com

Hurry, Hurry, Hurry Save the Murray

Lakes Alexandrina and Albert and the Coorong are in a desperate condition but they can be saved.

Proposed engineering interventions (e.g. weirs, bunds, regulators) threaten the freshwater ecosystem and regional economies and communities.



Join us in ensuring the recovery of these wetlands of international renown.

See www.hurrysavethemurray.com

It's over- allocation, not the drought.....

What do you know about Australia's river?

True or False?

1. *The Lakes have always been a predominantly fresh water system.*

True: The lakes were an estuary, but inflows from the river kept the salt-/fresh-water boundary near Point Sturt, most of the time. We know this from sediment cores, shell middens, oral and written histories. As water diversions began to increase in the late 19th Century, the salt water came further upstream. The barrages were constructed in 1939-40 to stop that occurring. Read *A Fresh History of the Lakes* www.stopheweir.com

2. *It is a waste of fresh water to put it into Lake Alexandrina where it will just evaporate.*

False: Fresh water in Lake Alexandrina means a healthy river, healthy communities and healthy economies. And, remember water evaporates everywhere—it is called 'the water cycle'. Lake Alexandrina is a good place to store water because evaporation rates are lower than those of the Menindee Lakes (NSW). Evaporation would be even lower if we were to adopt a lower operating level than the one determined by the barrages. Read *Applying a Local Water Balance* www.stopheweir.com

3. *The acidification of Lake Alexandrina is imminent. There is no fresh water. Open the barrages and let in the seawater to solve the problem.*

False: There is water for sale on the temporary water market. Acid Sulfate Soils can be treated. Plants are already growing through the Acid Sulfate Soils. Let's work with this natural process by planting, mulching and liming. Locals are already doing this. Let's treat the 'hot spots'. We do not need to flood the whole area with seawater. Seawater would irreversibly change the lakes' environment, and there is no plan for getting the salt out.

4. *A weir at Clayton and 'regulators' on the Finniss River and Currency Creek are needed to provide a freshwater refuge for native fish.*

False: Weirs are not the answer. Currency Creek and Finniss River have already disconnected from the main channel. Most native fish will find their own fresh water refuges and the endangered species are being maintained in captivity. They may not survive in weir pools that are favourable habitats for predators like Redfin perch and other alien species. More barriers will block the passage of native fish.



Lake Albert Feb 2008

NATURAL
REGENERATION
OCCURRING IN
THE LAKES

Lake Albert Nov 2008



5. *The Wellington Weir will protect Adelaide's water supply.*

False: Weirs create pools that accumulate silt and nutrients, are prone to algal blooms and stop the wind driven action that refreshes the system by moving water through the lakes and river. The main body of Lake Alexandrina would become a saline lake, unsuitable for freshwater plants and animals.

The consequences of obstructing the flow through the system are evident in the damage done by the bund between Lake Albert and Lake Alexandrina.

6. *There is water that could be bought for the Lakes now.*

True: Currently, on the temporary water market, 200 GL would cost less than \$60 million. This is much cheaper than some \$400+ million for temporary weirs, pumping and dredging.