



### **Backflips and Bungles**

4th June 2008

Member for Flinders Liz Penfold said the Labor government has just performed an unbelievable backflip today in parliament by revealing that potable water may never be provided by the BHP desalination plant at Port Bonython.

She said the revelation also scuttles the premise that the plant was to take Spencer Gulf cities and Eyre Peninsula off the River Murray.

The government has been pushing a deal with BHP Billiton to set up a desalination plant at Port Bonython to supply an expanded Roxby Downs and to reduce the amount of water being taken from the Murray.

Mrs Penfold said \$48.6 million was spent (despite advice to the contrary) to build a pipeline from Iron Knob to Kimba to provide water initially from the River Murray until this mythical desalination plant was built.

“This wasted pipeline funding could have been used to double the amount of River water licences recently bought back by the government for \$50 million.

“The bungling inaction points to the government’s inability to do anything positive about the River Murray water crisis and the plight of the towns and families that depend on it,” she said.

“Meanwhile, Lloyd Energy’s proposed privately-funded solar powered desalination plant at Ceduna that would have provided all the water needed by Eyre Peninsula was not facilitated and the company has gone to Queensland,” she said.

“The government is now talking about a secondary process to produce potable water in conjunction with a BHP plant.

“Once again this government is squandering taxpayers funds while the whole state waits for relief from the drought,” she said. ENDS