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NEW APPROACH TO SALINITY MANAGEMENT FOR PIKE RIVER

A new salt interception scheme and management system is being considered for the Pike region in the Riverland.

Minister for the River Murray Karlene Maywald said the new scheme would cost \$27 million and would prevent up to 100 tonnes of salt from entering the river each day.

“South Australia is finalising an approval and funding submission to the Murray-Darling Basin Commission,” Minister Maywald said.

“The Pike floodplain has suffered for decades due to poor management and salinisation.

“This is an exciting time for the Pike community, as it is the community that has driven these changes through establishing a partnership with the SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board.

“In addition, a new management system is being developed combining salt interception with improved flows for environmental and water supply purposes, and a floodplain management program of sustainable grazing, pest management and revegetation.

“The floodplain management program will include provisions for sustainable grazing, pest animal and plant management and revegetation.”

Minister Maywald announced last month that the construction of the \$30 million Murtho Salt Interception Scheme would go ahead following approval by the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council.

“Up to 670 tonnes of salt per day will be stopped from entering the River Murray with the addition of the Pike and Murtho schemes, the approved Waikerie Lock 2 scheme, the Loxton scheme which is currently under construction, and the Bookpurnong, Woolpunda, and Waikerie schemes already in operation.

“This is nearly 245,000 tonnes of salt per year which is vitally important in addressing long-term salinity management in South Australia.”