



# Brown slams boating ban on the Coorong

**Member for Finnis. Dean Brown has slammed a State Government decision to ban boating past the Murray Mouth into the Coorong this summer.**

Mr Brown said the ban, for all but three days during summer, had outraged boat owners and tour operators, and was having a negative impact on the local economy.

On Thursday morning, 6th January, a group of boaties gathered at the Murray Mouth to voice their opposition.

Rod Davis, a recreational fisherman said that the Coorong is one of our best waterways and he can't understand why the Government has to stop boating, as dredging and boating continue to work side by side in other places in the world.

Tom Bettess retired from Kangaroo Island to Hindmarsh Island to enjoy boating in the

Coorong and so far it hasn't happened!

Mr Brown said the Rann Government had been inept in continuing the exclusion of boats during the peak tourist season.

"A public meeting held recently at Goolwa and attended by more than 300 people highlighted the importance

of removing the ban for tourist and recreational boating.

"Goolwa has four marinas of boats plus hundreds of other boats and yachts, all of which adds tens of millions of dollars to the local economy.

"The most favoured boating journey along the Coorong is closed to the vast majority of those boats except for

the three days over the recent New Year weekend.

Andrew Chapman from The Marina Hindmarsh Island said his charter business was down 95%, still advertised in tourist brochures Australia wide, he said interstate visitors especially were disappointed when he explained that he could not take them to the Coorong and Murray Mouth because of the boating ban.

"During the recent three day weekend when boats could go past the Mouth, hundreds of boats ventured along the Coorong," Mr Brown said, "there were no difficulties or dangers for boats, even with the

two dredges still in place, the channels past the Mouth are wide and deep, the boats could pass the restricted zone at 4km/h in complete safety.

"River Murray Minister Karlene Maywald has been a real disappointment in failing to make arrangements to remove the ban which has now been in place since October 2002 when dredging started.

Mr Brown said the ban was expected to last for less than one year, now it has operated for more than two years and the Government says it will continue.

"The government has had more than two years to come up with a permanent solution, but can do no more than claim it is working toward a 'workable' and 'safe' answer.

Mr Brown said, "Recreational boaties and tourist operators, who continue to be refused access to the Murray Mouth are justifiably angry at the lack of response from the Government and its endless broken promises."



Recreational fisherman Tom Bettess and Andrew Chapman from The Marina Hindmarsh Island were among those who met with Acting Leader of the Opposition / Member for Finnis, Dean Brown at the Murray Mouth recently to discuss the boating ban.