

Parliamentary committee...

# 'We're here to learn'

The future of irrigation in the Murray-Darling Basin has been the focus of a group of South Australian politicians who toured the Riverland this week.

The parliamentary Natural Resources Committee spent two days in the Riverland, meeting with the irrigators and local bodies, including the Riverland Development Corporation and Citrus Board of SA.

Democrats MLC David Winderlich said as a committee member he was looking forward to gaining better understanding of how the irrigation industry works.

He said it was important that governments do not forget about the communities in an effort to save the river.

"I'm an advocate for the community and any community that's going through a hard time I want to do my best to help," he said.

"Riverland is doing it tough and it will be tough for a long time..."

"We have to save the river and we have to save the people too and that means people in Adelaide doing their share

"We have to stick together as a community and we need to look after each other. If people need to change industries, it is the responsibility of those of us in Adelaide to put our hands in our pockets to make it happen."

Mr Winderlich said he would visit the region again soon and planned to spend a week in the Riverland in July.



Barnera District War Memorial Community Centre Chairman Ian Penno (left) and Save Lake Bonney group member Robyn O'Dea (right) talk with Caroline Schaefer, David Winderlich and John Rau of the Natural Resources Committee. Committee members have spent the past two days in the Riverland, discussing the future of irrigation in the Murray-Darling Basin.

PHOTO: David Sickerdick