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Press statement - Chowilla

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The Member for Glenelg, Mr. Hugh Hudson, said in Parliament yesterday that the Chowilla Dam was the most important project for South Australia's future.

Mr. Hudson spoke at Berri earlier this year when a special meeting was called to discuss the Chowilla Dam.

Mr. Hudson said: "The Chowilla Dam is more significant than the development of natural gas, offshore oil, mineral deposits, or anything being considered in the metropolitan area."

"Without the Chowilla Dam, the future development of this State will suffer," Mr. Hudson said.

"In Opposition, the L.C.L. said no alternative to Chowilla could be considered, yet this year they withdrew instructions given to the River Murray Commissioner by the Labor Government. Instead our Commissioner voted for the consideration of an alternative."

Mr. Hudson said: "The L.C.L. at election time said they would build Chowilla Dam, but what have they done?"

"Mr. Hall claims that he voted for the alternative site at Dartmouth to enable political moves to be taken in Canberra. This has proved to be a failure and has converted the Minister for National Development into an even more hostile opponent."

Mr. Hudson said: "The attitude of the Commonwealth Government is now more adverse than before."

"We must show that New South Wales and Victoria can still benefit from Chowilla and that the salinity problem at Mildura can be overcome."

"The River Murray agreement gives us a legal right to Chowilla and a right to arbitration. This right has been ignored by the current L.C.L. Government."