

Adrian Pederick MP

Member for Hammond

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Regions left out of Weatherill's Budget

The regions have again suffered at the hands of a city-centric focused Weatherill Labor Government with very little support offered in Premier and Treasurer Weatherill's Budget yesterday, according to State Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick.

"The regions simply don't exist in the Weatherill Labor Government's eyes," said Mr Pederick.

"A boost to fruit fly control measures, upgrading two ferries and \$2.6 million to establish innovation clusters in the Riverland, Murraylands and Limestone Coast are positive, but are only small consolation prizes for the regions.

"There has been very little spent on new regional strategies considering the \$1.3 billion budgeted state-wide for new Government spending."

Primary Industries has again suffered.

"PIRSAs budget has been cut by \$11.5 million, with \$7 million alone taken from the Department's agriculture, food and fisheries programs," said Mr Pederick.

"Services like SARDI and Biosecurity SA were hardest hit with cuts to R&D and savings targets for the State's biosecurity measures.

"120 jobs are also expected to go out of PIRSA with most being cut from Rural Solutions SA and SARDI."

Mr Pederick said the state's debt was expected to reach \$13.75 billion with the state's deficit following suit increasing from \$1.16 billion to \$1.3 billion.

"By 2016-17, the interest on government debt will reach \$952 million and will cost \$2.6 million every day to pay back," Mr Pederick said.

"As a result, cost of living for South Australian families will continue to soar under the Weatherill Labor Government.

"Premier Weatherill can't be trusted to manage the State's economy, he can't be trusted to deliver what he promises, he can't be trusted to manage our State's future and he can't be trusted to look after the regions."

Other regional impacts include:

- 150 jobs expected to be cut from Country Health.
- Premier Weatherill's toxic car park tax remains, which will hit regional South Australians travelling to Adelaide.
- No new infrastructure spends for regional roads in the Hammond Electorate and car registrations and fines have jumped dramatically.

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