

## Adrian Pederick MP

Member for Hammond

Thursday, 28 February 2013

### **Sustainable Farming committee visits Murray Bridge**

Members of the Select Committee on Sustainable Farming Practices heard a wide range of issues impacting the Murraylands' primary producers at a public hearing held in Murray Bridge on Wednesday 27 February.

Liberal Member for Hammond and Select Committee Member, Adrian Pederick, said the hearing was well attended and the panel witnessed excellent submissions.

"The Sustainable Farming Practices committee panel heard some excellent presentations from a number of community members, including representatives from the NRM, the RDA plus local primary producers and spray drift specialists," Mr Pederick said.

"Agriculture accounts for 67 per cent of output for the Murraylands region and primary industries are the largest employer in the area, so sustainable farming is clearly important to those who presented.

"A wide range of issues were discussed which included family succession plans, land and soil use planning, spray drift and chemical use issues, and farm profitability."

Genetically Modified Crops and Foreign Investment, two emotive issues, were also explored by several of the presenters. In addition, a stark message was left for the committee regarding suicide rates in regional areas.

"The issue of suicide was also raised," Mr Pederick said

"It is alarming to know that out of six suicides that happen daily in Australia, four are in rural areas."

Mr Pederick appreciated the contribution and turnout from the Hammond community.

"The meeting was extremely productive and all submissions will go a long way to forming the Select Committee on Sustainable Farming Practices' final report which will be tabled in Parliament later this year," said Mr Pederick.

"Thanks to all that took the time to present or be a part of the public gallery."



Sustainable Farming Practices Select Committee Members, Steven Griffiths MP, Ivan Venning MP, Dr Susan Close MP and Adrian Pederick MP hear from local councillor and primary producer Cr Clem Schubert.