



**Adrian Pederick MP**  
Member for Hammond

## HANSARD

House of Assembly  
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### APPROPRIATION BILL 2013

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (16:32):** I rise to make another contribution in regard to the recently-delivered budget. The seat of Hammond is very much linked to agriculture and other industries, so I will reiterate my concern about the primary industries' budget being cut by another \$11.5 million and 120 employees going from primary industries. This means that many hundreds of employees have been cut from primary industries over the last four years, as well as \$80 million from the budget. In the budget, we see that rural services, SARDI and Biosecurity South Australia are some of the hardest hit areas.

We have seen regional development cut by \$4 million. We have seen no new road spend in the regions, other than some money spent on some upgrades to a road to the APY lands, and that is great, but what about the rest of regional South Australia? There is a minimal amount of money being spent on rural South Australian roads in comparison to what is being spent in the city.

In regard to the subprograms in agriculture, food and wine, we have seen a decrease in the budget by nearly \$2.5 million. Just in that subprogram there has been a decrease in funding since 2010-11 of \$8.5 million, a decrease in full-time equivalents by 10 people, another hit on industry of \$2.5 million and another \$1.5 million cut to meet budget savings targets.

If we look at Fisheries, we have seen full-time equivalents decrease by four. We have had some of the best-managed fisheries in the world, yet the government is going to implement its marine parks program and use the environment department instead of the primary industries and the fisheries departments to manage fisheries. Our fisheries have been managed sustainably all the time and it is just a matter of shifting the deck chairs in this case.

Let us look at the decrease in the full-time equivalent numbers at the South Australian Research and Development Institute. Full-time equivalents have decreased by 57. This year alone there is a \$2.1 million decrease in the budget to meet savings targets. Just while I am talking about SARDI and budget cuts, I was pleased to attend a meeting in Victor Harbor last Friday night with the member for Finniss and others.

**Mr Pengilly:** Don't you pinch my speech.

**Mr PEDERICK:** It's alright, I will just give a little bit. There was Professor Sonia Kleindorfer, who has been doing great work at Flinders University, and has researched for over two decades, especially in light of impacts on Little Penguins, and it was great to hear her story, but I question, why hasn't SARDI been doing this work with government funding? Here we have a government cutting funding all the time, so we see universities having to step up and do the research to see what is the impact on the Little Penguins, especially in regard to New Zealand fur seals.

We look at rural services and the decrease in full-time equivalents by 52, and we look at their budget being cut by \$2.6 million in a rationalisation of services. We get a lot of people talking about biosecurity. Everyone seems to have a bent on biosecurity these days but we see here that there has been a \$5.8 million decrease for it in this budget, and there has been a \$1 million decrease in the budget to meet savings targets.

We have also seen in this budget the forestry sale in the South-East, affecting the seats of Mount Gambier and MacKillop, where the government realised \$670 million, and it has just gone into the black hole. It is only about two-thirds of one year's interest on the debt. So for all the pain the South-East has been through over this issue it is such a waste that these forests were sold for only around half of their value. It is just ridiculous. I have already talked about the impact of money being sucked out of regional development, with \$4 million being taken out of regional development in this budget.

An issue that needs to be looked at more closely by this government, because they do not have enough appreciation of regional areas, is health spending, as I said, especially in the regions. We see plenty of money spent, we see billions being spent in the city for the new Adelaide hospital, and other items, but in the country things are sneakily getting wound back a bit. I see services for mental health getting funding cuts just quietly in areas like the wellness centre in Murray Bridge, which has lost funding for a staffer to keep those doors open to service the many hundreds of visitors who come through there each year for different programs.

I have also just learned that they are shutting down another bed at the Murray Bridge hospital. Why would you do that when more health services should be available in rural South Australia? Is this what is happening because of the thousands of jobs we are hearing are going out of health, and does this mean that 200 of those jobs are going in regional South Australia and will impact on all of us in our regional electorates?

We look at another issue in my electorate that I share with the member for Finniss about the after hours emergency work done by the Goolwa doctors, after they have worked their normal shifts with appointment and other work, whether it is surgical or otherwise during the day. They are then expected to do all the emergency work, and are then expected to turn up the next day. The government does not want to fund that appropriately and now the doctors have threatened to pull the pin, essentially, and to quit. This affects emergency referrals through to the South Coast District Hospital in Victor Harbor.

**Mr Pengilly:** Shame.

**Mr PEDERICK:** It is a shame; it is a great shame. It is a growing area and a lot of people retire in Victor Harbor and Goolwa and surrounding areas, and they need decent health services. Here we have a government, just because of budget reasons, I believe, which does not want to pay for the appropriate locum services in the area.

I want to look at some of the issues around education, and I spoke about them in my previous speech. I think education management needs a full revamp. I warmly welcome the autonomy policy of the Liberal Party, because then we might see some real outcomes for public education in this state. I look at things like the rainwater policy imposed by the government. Anyone would think rainwater was poisonous. I have looked at the DECS policy—or DECD, whatever acronym it is this week—and it is atrocious. I have been drinking rainwater all my life and it hasn't shrunk me at all.

**Members interjecting:**

**Mr PEDERICK:** Exactly. It doesn't hurt you, I tell you. The biggest problem is that we have people who are risk averse, even though the testing is done by the appropriate plumbers, and now money is going to be wasted at schools like where my children go at Coomandook. Thousands—probably tens of thousands of dollars—will be spent to plumb in new pipes because they have to put on mains water.

I talk about issues like our road infrastructure, and I commend the member for Chaffey for his comments. There are far too many roads in our electorates where the shoulders are not wide enough, and he was right in mentioning the truckloads of mineral sands going to Adelaide from the Mindarie mine. The road does not stop at Karoonda and they have to keep going, and it is atrocious as you go through Karoonda and head to Murray Bridge or Tailm Bend and you hit the patch at Wynarka.

It would shake the hell out of a truck, I can assure you, because it shakes the hell out of cars going along some of that road and around some of those corners there. Instead, what we have as far as a road maintenance program in South Australia is the government just turns back the speed limit 10

km/h so that you have to drive more slowly. I will also look at what else is happening with the budget, just quickly, in closing my remarks.

It is an absolute disgrace that this government, even though they say they are contributing to Murray River reform and the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, are bleeding \$14 million out of that plan and not supporting it appropriately as well. You cannot say one thing and do another. It just does not work. The Murray River was in grief for many years. I was right at the forefront of that battle and, if you say you are going to support something, you just cannot bleed funding out like this as the state Labor government has.

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