



Ag and fisheries in focus



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SOUTH Australia's newly-introduced marine parks will be reviewed and more funding will be directed into agricultural research and development under a state Liberal government.

Opposition Agriculture, Food and Fisheries spokesperson Adrian Pederick made the pledge during a recent visit to the region where he met with Adelaide Plains produce growers, Gawler anglers and local business owners.

Mr. Pederick was joined by Liberal candidate for Light Cosie Costa and Gawler-based member of the Legislative Council John Dawkins to tour the area and discuss issues affecting the agricultural, horticultural, fisheries and small business sectors.

Mr Costa said, if elected at the next state election in March, 2014, the Liberal party will re-examine the new marine parks.

The State Government introduced 19 marine parks across South Australia late last year.

Under the initiative, the Upper Gulf St Vincent Marine Park incorporates local coastal areas between Port Gawler and Wild Horse Plains.

The ocean off these towns will become

habitat protection zones, where activities such as fishing will be restricted.

"We want proper scientific assessment (because) we want to make sure that the sanctuary zones are the actual breeding grounds and areas where fish need to be to breed and not just lines on a map," Mr Pederick said.

"The lack of consultation has been horrendous and we will be doing a complete review of the marine parks process."

Mr Pederick also said another of his "main ambitions" would be to commit more resources into agricultural research and development.

“ Without decent research and development, we're just treading water in this state.

ADRIAN PEDERICK

"I'm very keen to expand research and development," he said.

"That will take some time to re-commit funds that have been slashed from agriculture in recent years...but I am very keen to

improve those outcomes in the end.

"Without decent research and development, we're just treading water in this state."

Meanwhile, Mr Costa said the tour was the first of many he will undertake in the lead-up to the election.

"We'll be doing this constantly for the next 12 or so months to really get a good feel about what this electorate needs," he said.

"I've got my own ideas what they need, but I need to find out from them whether I'm on the right track or not."

Gawler Bunyip

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ABOVE: Gawler-based legislative council member John Dawkins, Opposition Agriculture, Food and Fisheries spokesperson Adrian Pederick, Liberal candidate for Light Cosie Costa and Potato grower Phil Deluca, from Deluca Gardens at Deluca Gardens recently.

PHOTO: Elizabeth Henson