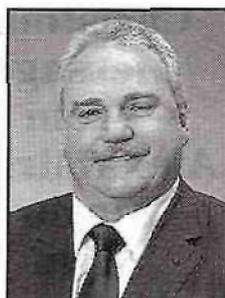




Christmas Message from Adrian Pederick MP JP Member for Hammond



As we approach another Christmas, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on a very memorable 2013.

The River Murray continues to return to health and the Murray Darling Basin Plan is now 12 months old. However high salinity levels in Lake Albert and increasing water costs remain a concern. Our irrigators are as always being innovative and a recent meeting in Meningie highlighted the importance for strong water policies.

Murray Bridge continues to grow as a regional centre as one of the only towns in regional South Australia to witness population growth in 2013 – a direct result of the great opportunities offered in and around this great area.

The Murray Bridge Racing Club Gifford Hill project continues to develop with roads and infrastructure construction underway. The focus now turns to the construction of the impressive racecourse building and racetrack facilities.

The announcement that Tailem Bend is the preferred site for South Australia's future motor sport hub and reports new owners will look to develop the existing site is very exciting for the electorate.

In October, Goolwa held the Murray Darling Association 69th National Conference. Goolwa played a wonderful host to the large delegation that attended the three day conference. Hopefully the conference highlighted to those who represented the eastern states the importance of the Murray Mouth and how vulnerable it is to upstream issues.

I would like to congratulate Clayton Bay local Henry Jones on being a finalist in the South Australian 'Senior Australian of the Year Award' – an honour well deserved for his work in water conservation and efforts to save the Lower Lakes and Coorong. Henry and his wife Gloria were also recognised in the National Seafood Hall of Fame for their contributions to the industry – a wonderful achievement.

The district is a strong regional area and with the growth of local industries and return of flows to the River Murray, people should be confident of a bright future in the Hammond Electorate.

With my family, Sally, Mack and Angus, and my Hammond team, I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.