

## Jobs to go in Viterra shake up

MORE than 300 jobs are at stake as a large portion of Viterra's operations is shifted from Adelaide to Victoria by the Swiss-based company which acquired the business last year.

The decision to downsize the company's Adelaide-based Australian headquarters was revealed as Glencore International announced plans to grow its Melbourne office.

State Opposition Agriculture spokesman Adrian Pederick said the decision meant the headquarters of Viterra would be based in Melbourne as Glencore's main operation was also located there.

"Adelaide Viterra is really just an arm of Glencore now," he said.

"They may say Adelaide will still be the head office of Viterra but they are just using words to cover what is really the case."

Mr Pederick said he spoke to a senior member of operations on Wednesday who confirmed the company was downsizing.

"I was told the traders operating out of Adelaide would be moved to the trading arm in Melbourne - which is Glencore," he said.

"I know for a fact they are downsizing and not everyone will have a job at the end of the day.

"We've asked Glencore to give us a briefing and they will probably do that but it would be eas-

ier if there was a more transparent process in place they had to adhere to.

Mr Pederick blamed the move by Glencore on the Federal and State governments' refusal to listen to the SA Parliament Select Committee for the Grain Handling Industry's recommendations that Glencore be made to adhere to a number of conditions before being allowed to operate in the country.

"I am disappointed the State and Federal governments haven't pursued Glencore to make strong commitments as the Canadians did before they were allowed to trade there."

Mr Pederick said Viterra, which holds the monopoly over the SA grain industry, confirmed a large number of its Adelaide based workforce would be made redundant while some had accepted offers to move to Melbourne to continue under the management of Glencore.

"South Australian stakeholders have been consistently uninformed on the Glencore-Viterra takeover," he said.

"Agriculture Minister Gago must now seek assurances from Glencore that it will do the right thing for the farmers of our State," he said.

Viterra declined to make a statement when contacted by The Standard.